

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-751

1. Name of Property

South Branch Recreational Area Survey District

historic

Sykes Mill, Howard Cotton Factory, B. F. Shriver Cannery

other

Apple Butter Factory

2. Location

street and number

350 Route 32

not for publication

city, town

Sykesville

vicinity

county

Howard

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks

street and number

7120 Oakland Mills Road

telephone

(410) 313-4700

city, town

Columbia

state

MD

zip code

21046-1677

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Howard County Tax Assessor

liber

folio

city, town

Ellicott City

tax map 4

tax parcel 54

tax ID number

1403293882

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	3
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	1
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	5
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

Six buildings and structures occupy the 7.369 Acre South Branch Recreational Area Survey District. They are largely the remains of the B. F. Shriver Canning Company's Sykesville plant. They include a brick warehouse, a wood water tank and its concrete block pumphouse, a stone dwelling, a truck scale house and a metal warehouse. They are located on the Patapsco River in Howard County, just across the river from the town of Sykesville in Carroll County. Together, these buildings reflect the commercial heritage of the site; their industrial forms stand as mute testimony to the functions they once served.

Description

The South Branch Recreational Area Survey District is comprised of three contributing buildings, two contributing structures, and one non-contributing building. The buildings include a large brick warehouse, a truck weigh station, a small stone house, and a non-contributing metal warehouse. The structures are an elevated water tank and its partially subterranean pumphouse. The buildings and structures are spread across a 7.369 acre site on the south bank of the West Branch of the Patapsco River. They are located where Forsythe and West Friendship Roads join with Main Street to cross the river into downtown Sykesville. While the town is in Carroll County, the South Branch Recreational Area is in Howard County.

BRICK WAREHOUSE

This long rectangular building is constructed of brick laid in 7-course American bond on an elevated poured concrete foundation. It was constructed c. 1917 by the B. F. Shriver Canning Company during their occupation of the site. The only openings along the walls are five truck bays along the east facade, one on the north and one on the west. The interior is lit by two rows of rectangular skylights that run the length of the building. The roof is arched with arched brick parapets at the north and south ends.

The east facade, or main loading dock, is 13 bays long, with slightly projecting brick buttresses dividing the bays. The top third of the wall is infilled with concrete block, showing where the wall was heightened and the roof was raised. This alteration occurred after 1936, when aerial photographs taken by the Curtiss Flying Service show a lower gable roof with no parapets. The center truck bay is slightly larger than the others with a frame shed-roof awning. The two bays to the south have modern metal awnings over them.

The south facade clearly shows the original gable roof form and the added arched parapet, which is two wythes in depth and laid in running bond with a top course of headers. This facade is four bays wide, again separated by brick buttresses. A projection of the concrete foundation at the west end and a bricked in opening indicate a former truck bay on this facade. Boards attached to the wall indicate where a shed or awning once covered the bay.

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The north facade is similar with the exception that the buttresses were not extended in height when the roof was raised, as they were on the other facades. There are three bays here and the dividing buttresses stop at the original roofline. A truck bay is centrally located, formerly with a shed or awning above it. A long concrete pad, matching the building's width extends northward from this facade. The 1936 aerial photographs depict that there was an addition to the building situated on this pad which has since been removed.

The east facade is similar to the others in elevation and materials, with buttressing and concrete block added at the top of the wall. A truck bay is located toward the northern end of the facade in the fourth bay. The remainder of the facade toward the south is covered by a shed roof concrete block addition. This addition is believed to date to around 1930 and appears in the 1936 aerials. A former window on the north side has been filled with concrete block. The south wall of the addition is covered with plywood.

On the interior, the building is a single room, with the exception of the addition, which has a lower ceiling and houses two offices. The main space is open and expansive, measuring approximately 130 x 60 feet. The ceiling is of corrugated metal and is supported by an arched metal truss system. The floor is concrete and the brick walls unfinished. Despite having no windows, the room is well lit by skylights.

STONE HOUSE

This small c. 1870 stone dwelling faces southward in the center of the South Branch Recreational Area Survey District and is one story in height, with an attic and basement. Frame additions have increased the interior space, but have not diminished the original appearance or materials. The construction is of randomly coursed granite fieldstone covered in plaster and painted white. There appear to be two original chimneys, one an interior end chimney along the west facade and the other located in the center of the building.

The south facade of this side gable dwelling contains a centrally located front door flanked by a window on either side. The windows are boarded over, but were originally glazed with 6/6 double hung sashes. Basement windows under each of the first floor windows have also been boarded over. A small, partially enclosed hip roof porch covers the door, which has been removed and replaced with plywood. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A frame addition extends to the west and is flush along the north facade.

This addition rests on a concrete block foundation and is sided with wood drop siding. It extends the gable roof form and appears to date from the 1920s or 1930s. One window punctuates the north facade, two windows face west, beneath a boarded over attic opening, and one window is located on the north side

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of this addition. The space was added to expand the kitchen and create an additional bedroom.

On the north side, a bathroom was added in a center projecting addition, probably at the same time as the western addition to the house. It had a shed roof and is sheathed in the same drop siding as the rest of the addition. A window, now boarded over, faces north. Three windows are located on the first floor of the stone portion of the building on the north facade. The center one has been filled in but the eastern one retains its 6/6 window. Wood lintels and sills are visible on this facade. Basement windows are also present directly under the east and west windows but have been boarded over.

The east facade has one window on the first floor. It possesses a 6-pane upper sash over a vertical 2-pane sash. A basement level addition was constructed of plywood on a wood frame with a hip roof.

The interior has plaster walls and wood floors covered with carpet. The room configuration appears to have been altered from the original two rooms. The attic is unfinished and the basement was inaccessible. The house is present on the 1936 aerials in its present location and configuration. It is believed to have been used as an office or combination office/dwelling for a factory employee and served as a residence during the latter part of the 20th century.

WATER TANK AND PUMPHOUSE

The elevated water tank is also present on the 1936 aerial photographs, indicating it was in use during the occupation of the property by the B. F. Shriver Canning Company. It is located off the northwest corner of the house between it and the brick warehouse. It is a large drum, approximately 20 feet in diameter, constructed of cypress with rebar-like metal bands surrounding it and providing stabilization. The tank is believed to have been moved to the site after serving as a water tank for another site, possibly used by the B&O Railroad.

Constructed in 1917, after Shriver took over the property, the tank is elevated on a concrete and timber base. It rests on 2 x 12 joists on I-beams over a cross-braced support system. The roof of the tank is a piece of corrugated metal laid flat, although it probably once had a conical metal roof. Water was supplied to the tank via a pumphouse located off the north side of the tank base. This small structure is built into a hill with three partial walls of concrete block. A sheet of corrugated metal forms a roof. Some equipment is still in place inside the pumphouse.

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TRUCK SCALE/WEIGH HOUSE

The truck scale, also called a scale house or weigh house, is situated on the southeast portion of the property aligned to accept vehicular traffic off West Friendship Road. Facing southeast, it is a two-story building with one half open for use as the scale and one half enclosed for offices. It is of frame construction with a concrete foundation and side gable roof. It measures 20 x 32 feet with the scale base occupying 10 x 19 feet of the space. The building appears to date from the 1930s or 1940s.

Doors into the office are located on the southeast facade and on the southwest facade, entering from the scale area. A second story door is also located in this facade. Windows are present on the other three facades. There is a central one on the second floor of the southeast side, directly over the door, two windows on the northwest side, one on each floor, and four on the northeast side, two on each floor. Although currently boarded over, the windows were formerly a mix of 6/6 and 2/2 double hung sash.

The entrance to the scale was from the south into the open space of the building. Long granite blocks in the ground extend southward from southwest and northeast walls, acting as guides for truck drivers entering the scale. The scale base is flush with the ground and constructed of wood planks within a concrete surround. The scale itself was located in an inset on the southwest wall of the office. Now covered from the exterior, the scale was visible behind the interior office wall. In good condition, the cast iron scale is model #7705 manufactured by the Howe Scale Company in Eastland, Vermont.

The office area consists of a single room on each floor with a brick chimney located at the southeast corner. The original walls have been covered with modern paneling and the ceiling has been dropped with fire retardant acoustical tile. Steps to the second floor are located in the southwest corner. These curve around to enter the attic space, which reveals the building's frame construction. The wood weatherboard siding, at least on this floor, was applied directly over the frame with no sheathing or insulation. The roof was replaced with plywood, over which composition shingles were laid directly.

METAL WAREHOUSE

The metal warehouse is a large structure with corrugated metal siding and roofing. It was constructed in about 1975 with a slight gable roof and high concrete block foundation. A truck bay is located toward the northern end of the east facade. Standard doors are located on this same side at the north and south ends. Due to its age, this building is the only non-contributing building in the South Branch Recreational Area Survey District.

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SITE

The 1936 aerial photographs, located at the Sykesville Gate House Museum of History, are informative in their views of the B. F. Shriver Cannery. The facility was more extensive than what is now present, but does show all the extant buildings, with the exception of the metal warehouse, in place at that time. In addition, there was a long gable roof building parallel to the brick warehouse. Although the construction materials are not visible, it is apparent that the original portion of this long building is located at the north end with several additions put on to the south. A small cross-gable second story is present about midway down the building and was possibly used as an office space or to provide clerestory lighting.

Additions off the west side of the building include a two-story shed roof addition and long shed roof over an open storage area. A smokestack is present, as is a walkway or conveyor belt running between this building and the extant brick warehouse. A small gable roof building was also located off the east side of the brick warehouse and may have served as a power house as what appears to be a transmitter is located immediately adjacent to it.

The buildings that are now present on the site represent about 40% of the canning factory buildings seen in the aerial photos (included in the photographs that accompany this document). With so many of the buildings, structures, mechanisms, and equipment gone, it is hard to fully understand the extent of the canning process from those that are left. However, as they are the only remnants of the B.F. Shriver Canning Company and other earlier industrial uses of the site, it is important to recognize them for their historical significance.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates c. 1917

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☒ Maryland Register☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

The South Branch Recreational Survey District is significant in Maryland's 19th and 20th century history for its associations with the development of the town of Sykesville, which straddles Howard and Carroll Counties, and for its involvement with the various industries that brought economic success and recognition to the area. This property has served as the site on which a succession of industries operated, including a saw and gristmill, the Howard Cotton Factory, the B. F. Shriver Canning Company, and an apple butter manufactory. It is because of these industries and the town's early association with the B&O Railroad that Sykesville gained its reputation as the commercial hub for this area.

Nineteenth Century History of the Site

The original town of Sykesville was located on the south side of the western branch of the Patapsco River in what was then Anne Arundel County. The town has since clustered largely on the higher ground of the north bank in Carroll County. Originally part of Baltimore County, this area became Carroll County in 1837. Howard County, south of the river, was formed in 1851. The South Branch Recreational Area Survey District falls within Howard County and is somewhat separated from the rest of present-day Sykesville by the Patapsco River.

It was from this site, however, that the town of Sykesville originally emerged. In the early 19th century, the area was sparsely populated with only a handful of homes and mills scattered along this part of the Patapsco River Valley. In the late 1820s and early 1830s, however, the landscape would begin to change. James Sykes, son of John Sykes of Baltimore, came to the area and began to purchase land, possibly with the knowledge that the railroad would soon be coming through the valley. During the late 1820s through 1850, Sykes acquired vast landholdings and had begun several entrepreneurial ventures that would bring settlers to the area.

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Sykes, for whom the town is named, was born in Yorkshire, England in 1791. His father, a cloth manufacturer, had come to America when James was a child to sell his woolen goods.¹ The elder Sykes was successful in his business venture in America and was joined by the rest of his family in 1801. As a young man, James Sykes served as a soldier in 1812-14, during the war with England.² He went on to operate several mills in Maryland, served as a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1864, and was instrumental in founding the Maryland Institute and St. Barnabas Church in Sykesville. He also served as one of the earliest directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.³

This connection to the railroad, and perhaps the knowledge of its planned route through the Patapsco River Valley, may have been an influential factor in his decision to purchase land including what was to become the town of Sykesville. The B&O began service between Baltimore and Ellicott City on the "Old Main Line" in May 1830. On December 1, 1831, the service was extended through Sykesville to Frederick Junction.⁴

Sykes had purchased several tracts of land on both sides of the river in the 1820s from his business associate George Patterson, another B&O director. By 1831, when the horse-drawn railroad came through, he had made substantial improvements to an old grist and sawmill on the south side of the river and had built a four-story-plus-basement stone hotel with 47 rooms to accommodate rail passengers.⁵

The mill was one of the few buildings in the vicinity at the time and stood on the present site of the South Branch Recreational Area Survey District. It was reportedly constructed of stone and was in poor condition when acquired by Sykes.⁶ Sykes made improvements to the mill and operated it as the Merchants Flour Mill for several years.⁷ At this time, no true town existed and the stop along the B&O was simply referred to as Horse Train Stop.⁸ It soon gained notoriety, and with the replacement of horses with steam engines by 1832, had become a resort destination for Baltimoreans. The growing town came to be called Sykes, and was acknowledged for its fine hotel, which was "then considered the finest in the state outside of Baltimore."⁹

¹ Obituary of James Sykes. *Baltimore Sun*, 1 June 1881.

² *Democratic Advocate*, 23 April 1881.

³ Obituary.

⁴ *Saving Sykesville: A Plan for Today and Beyond...*, p. 3.

⁵ Greenberg, Linda F. *Sykesville Past & Present: A Walking Tour*, p. 8.

⁶ *Ibid*, p 7.

⁷ "Old Sykesville Mill Burns." *Baltimore Sun*, 11 December 1905. This is the only source to give the mill this name. It is also the only to make the claim that the mill was "one of the first of its kind in Maryland."

⁸ *Saving Sykesville*, p. 3.

⁹ Mentzel, Frank A. *A History of Sykesville*, p. 2.

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James Sykes had probably learned the textile business from his father, who had become a successful and well-known merchant and businessman in Baltimore. Among the son's enterprises were a woolen mill in Wetheredsville in Baltimore County, Fleecydale Mills in Frederick County, Oakland Cotton Mill in Baltimore, and Howard Cotton Factory in Howard County.¹⁰

It is this latter mill which he established in Sykesville in 1845, upgrading and adding to the extant grist and sawmill. The Howard Cotton Factory established industry in the area and along with ore mining sites and the Elba Furnace just downstream, brought to Sykesville the recognition of "an important center of commerce and transportation for southern Carroll County" by the 1870s.¹¹ Cotton was imported via the railroad from the South, processed at Sykes Mill, and shipped by rail to northern cities for clothing manufacture and export.¹²

To run the factory, a millrace fed water from the Patapsco onto the site and had likely been in use for the former grist/sawmill. Also necessary for success was the employment of skilled tradespeople. Sykes brought trained workers from England to run his mills, possibly using his father's connections to the British textile industry.¹³ About 200 people were employed at the factory at its peak.¹⁴ For his workers and their families, Sykes built housing and donated land for the construction of a church. St Barnabas Protestant Episcopal Church (HO-124) was built as a "chapel of ease" in 1850 for the factory workers so they would not have to travel the 3 ½ miles to Holy Trinity in Eldersburg.¹⁵ Sykes served as one of the first vestrymen of the church.¹⁶

Sykes also built himself a large mansion with 34 rooms on a hill just west of the mill. This stone house became known as the Hugg Mansion after subsequent owners and was destroyed by fire in 1933.¹⁷ As an ensemble, the factory, workers' housing, owner's mansion, and church made up a typical mill village¹⁸ and by 1851, was being called Sykesville.¹⁹

The mill and village flourished until the nationwide Panic of 1857. Due to the economic hardship

¹⁰ Obituary.

¹¹ Getty, Joe. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form: Springfield Presbyterian Church*.

¹² Greenberg, p. 7.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ MacLeod, William. "Early History of Sykesville, Part I" *Sykesville Herald*, 19 Apr 1962.

¹⁵ Thompson, Cleora. *Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet: Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places: St. Barnabas Episcopal Church*.

¹⁶ Holland, Celia M. "St. Barnabas Church: A Link in the Chain of Continuity." *The Herald*, 13 June 1973.

¹⁷ *1999 Spring History Walk* (Brochure).

¹⁸ Cohn, Christine. "The History of Sykesville, Maryland in the Nineteenth Century," p. 7.

¹⁹ Reisberg, Wayne. "The Early History of Sykesville (1825-1868)," p. 5.

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experienced by many businesses, particularly in the North, Sykes was forced to close the Howard Cotton Factory. It was sold in 1858. The sales advertisement in the *Sykesville American* ran as follows:

FACTORY, HOTEL AND STORE... 25 Acres of land COTTON FACTORY three stories and attic, built of stone, containing pickers, spreaders, three sections of cards, ten each, with railway and drawing frames; about 1,200 Throstle spindels, spooling frames, warping mill, sizeing apparatus, and sixty-four looms, calculated to make either plain or twill goods. When last in operation were making very good Osnaburgs, or heavy twill ... twelve dwellings for operatives, a stonedrying house for drying warpsm a blacksmith shop and slaughterhouse. The mill has appended to it boilers and steam engine if the capacity of forty or fifty horse power”²⁰

For the next ten years, the factory was run sporadically by different owners. L.A. Purnett operated it for a year and during the Civil War, James A. Gary used the property to produce manufactured goods.²¹ During the war, the Confederate Army raided Sykesville. They were under orders from General J.E.B. Stuart to “tear up the railroad track, cut telegraphs lines and burn bridges between Hood’s Mill and Sykesville.”²² On June 29, 1863, these tasks were accomplished. Reportedly, the Union Army also came through Sykesville, shutting down the factory. Town legend has is that the Army confiscated the machinery belts to use to replace the soles of their boots.²³

The residents of Sykesville had barely recovered from the war when disaster struck. In 1868, the Johnstown flood essentially washed away the town. The factory, hotel, iron furnace, and dozens of homes were destroyed or left in ruins.²⁴ In the latter decades of the 19th century, the property containing the factory ruins was owned by Jacob Zimmerman and Louis H. Schultz and their descendants. Zimmerman and Schultz had arrived in Sykesville in 1858 from Frederick and established a mercantile business. Like other Sykesville residents, their property was located on the south sie of the river and was destroyed by the flood. After the flood, the town, including the store relocated to the higher ground of the north bank.

Twentieth Century History of the Site

²⁰ *Sykesville American*, 23October 1858, p. 3.

²¹ MacLeod, “History of Sykesville, Part I.”

²² “The Civil War in Sykesville.”

²³ “History of Sykesville.” *Sykesville Herald*, 21 May 1936.

²⁴ Wimmer, Thelma C. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form: Sykesville Historic District*.

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It is unknown if Zimmerman and Schultz utilized the property where the cotton factory had been located. It was sold in 1901 to Frank Brown, a wealthy Carroll County resident and owner of the Springfield Estate. Brown had served as Governor of the state of Maryland from 1892 to 1896.²⁵ The factory at that time was a "rambling structure, added to from time to time by the construction of wings."²⁶

In December 1905, the former factory was destroyed by fire. It had not been in use as a manufactory for some time, but had been used by Brown "as a store house with a couple of the wings used as dwellings."²⁷ It is known that Brown rented summer cottages, called Brown's Cottages to summer vacationers.²⁸ It is unknown, however, if these were the same dwellings that burned and whether they were related to the mill housing built by Sykes.

In 1906, the property passed to Wade H. D. Warfield, another prominent Sykesville native. Warfield, "perhaps the chief contributor to Sykesville's growth of business buildings and one of its outstanding politicians," ran a lumber mill in town.²⁹ He also organized and served as president of the Sykesville National Bank, founded Sykesville Realty and Investment Company, and erected several important buildings in town, including the Warfield Building and the Arcade Building. He was a Maryland Senator and served on the State Livestock and Sanitary Board.³⁰

It is unknown how Warfield used the property, which by this time had been reduced from 25 to about 7½ acres. In 1917, B. F. Shriver bought the property from Warfield. The B. F. Shriver Canning Company, named for Benjamin Franklin Shriver (b. 1843), was a Maryland company with canneries and farms in various locations throughout the state and in Pennsylvania.³¹ Since fruits and vegetables had become increasingly valuable to area farmers following the Civil War, canning became a profitable business in Carroll County.³²

Shriver founded his first canning operation in 1869, moving to Westminster, Maryland in 1872 and canning primarily peas, corn, and tomatoes. The Shriver's contributed to this national industry with the invention of the autoclave by Andrew K. Shriver of Baltimore in 1874. This retort pressure cooker "revolutionized canning technology throughout the nation" by allowing canners to create higher temperatures in which foods cooked in less time. Mark O. Shriver, Benjamin's brother, invented and

²⁵ Greenberg, p. 15.

²⁶ "Old Sykesville Mill Burns." *Baltimore Sun*, 11 December 1905.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Cohn, p. 22.

²⁹ "History of Sykesville." *Sykesville Herald*, 14 May 1936.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Lee, Carol. *Legacy of the Land: 250 Years of Agriculture in Carroll County Maryland*, p. 62.

³² *Ibid.*, p 61.

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patented the first closed retort, also contributing to the cooking and canning process.³³

The B. F. Shriver Company established subsequent plants in Littlestown, Pennsylvania in 1893, New Windsor, Maryland in 1903, and in Sykesville in 1917. As seen in a 1936 aerial photo, the plant at the South Branch Recreational Area Survey District comprised a number of buildings for canning production. These included the large brick building, water tank, stone house, and weigh station, all of which are still located on the property. In addition, another warehouse-like structure, a small powerhouse, and a smokestack were present.

World War II brought increased production for canneries, with two-thirds of the military's food supply coming from canned goods.³⁴ It was towards the end of the war that the B. F. Shriver Canning Company sold its Sykesville plant to A. H. Renehan and Son, a Maryland General Partnership. From 1944 to 1949, the Renehan family ran an apple butter factory from the South Branch Recreational Area Survey District property.

The Renehan family sold the property in 1988 to J. Thomas Scrivener. In 1989, Tisano Realty acquired it. William Tisano used the brick building for his Sunlight Manufacturing, which fabricated patio enclosures.³⁵ Howard County purchased the 7.369-acre site in 1995.

Significance

The South Branch Recreational Area Survey District is considered eligible for the Maryland Register under Criteria A and C. As the original site of the town of Sykesville, the property has a long industrial heritage, attracting business and residents to the North Howard County/south Carroll County area throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

The property currently includes four buildings and an elevated water tank and its associated pumphouse. The large brick warehouse and frame truck scale house date from the cannery operation. The cypress water tank also likely was installed by the B. F. Shriver Canning Company but may be a re-use of an older tank, possibly one used by the railroad. A small stone dwelling and modern metal warehouse are also located on the property. With the exception of the metal warehouse, all of the buildings are present in the 1936 aerial views of the site.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 62.

³⁴ *The Canning Industry*, p. 8.

³⁵ Hare, Mary Gail. "Sykesville Petitioned to Annex Land." *Baltimore Sun*, 5 September 1993.

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Although alterations have occurred to the brick warehouse, including raising the gable roof and repacing it with an arched one and removing the north addition, it still retains its integrity of form and industrial function. Its original wide open interior is preserved, as is its relationship to the other buildings on site.

The c. 1930 truck scale is an unusual building type and is reflective of the area's agricultural history. Farmers under contract to the B. F. Shriver Company would truck in their fruits and vegetables and weigh them at the cannery. They would drive onto the scale and be paid for their goods by weight. The original scale, made by the Howe Scale Company of Eastland, Vermont, is still in place inside the wall of the building. The bed of the scale is also intact. This building retains much of its integrity of form and function and is significant for its utilitarian design and association with the canning and agricultural industries of the Maryland Piedmont. It is a relatively rare historic building type and is remarkably intact. A sign reading Sykesville Auto Sales, placed on the south facade, may indicate the site was used as a car sales lot at some point in the mid to late 20th century.

The water tank and small pumphouse were also installed by the B. F. Shriver Company. The canning plant would have needed water for washing the fruits and vegetables to be canned and boiling the cans. It may have also served as a source of water in the event of a fire. Because the tank is a round wooden one, not the later metal type more commonly found at 20th century industrial sites, the tank may have been originally used by the B&O Railroad as a water tank for steam engines. This flat-bottom, wood type of tank is more often associated with railroads. The newer wood and concrete pile base for the tank also indicates that it may have been moved to this site for use by the cannery. The pumphouse at the north side of the base also appears to be constructed in the mid-20th century, a more recent date than is likely for this type of tank.

The small stone house is an earlier structure that poses a bit of a mystery. It is known that the flood of 1868 destroyed substantial buildings on the south side of the Patapsco, so it is unlikely that this smaller building survived intact. This dwelling was likely constructed after the flood, probably around 1870. Its origin is unknown, but it was used as a residence at least during the 1960s and 1970s. Some believe that it was used as an office for previous industrial enterprises occupying the property. Interior alterations and a small frame addition have modified the building somewhat, but it still retains its exterior appearance and its integrity of materials and association with this site. The non-contributing metal warehouse occupies the southwest corner of the site and was constructed in about 1975.

The presence of the B&O Railroad from a very early date, the Sykes Mill, Howard Cotton Factory, B. F. Shriver Cannery Company, the Renehan's apple butter business all contributed to Sykesville's reputation as a center of commerce and transportation for southern Carroll County and northern Howard County. The B. F. Shriver Company is significant in Maryland history for being one of the state's earliest canning

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enterprises, an industry that would prove essential in the agricultural heritage of the two counties. This company is also significant for its scientific contributions to the canning industry, including Andrew Shriver's invention of the autoclave and Mark Shriver's invention of the closed retort system of cooking canned goods.

In addition to the property's association with the development of Sykesville and the history of canning in Maryland, it also possesses the potential to yield further information about the historic and prehistoric uses of the site. With at least two mills, the cotton factory, canning business, residence, and taverns on the site, more information has yet to be determined on the placement and uses of individual structures over time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-751

See Continuation Sheet 9.1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 7.369
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Anne Brockett, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	1/15/01
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101	telephone	(301) 670-5469
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Inventory No. HO-751

Name
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Inventory No. HO-751

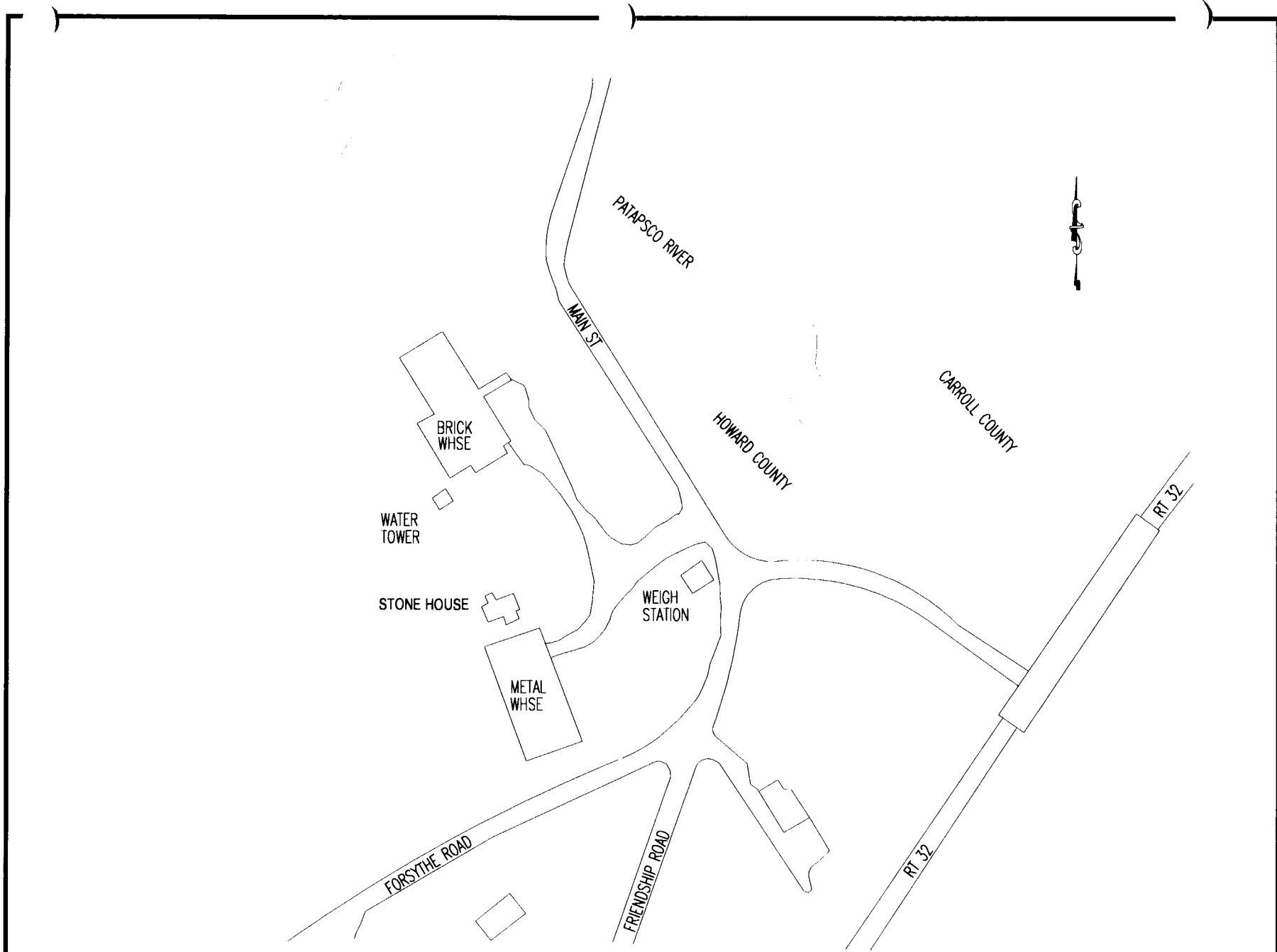
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Number 9 Page 3

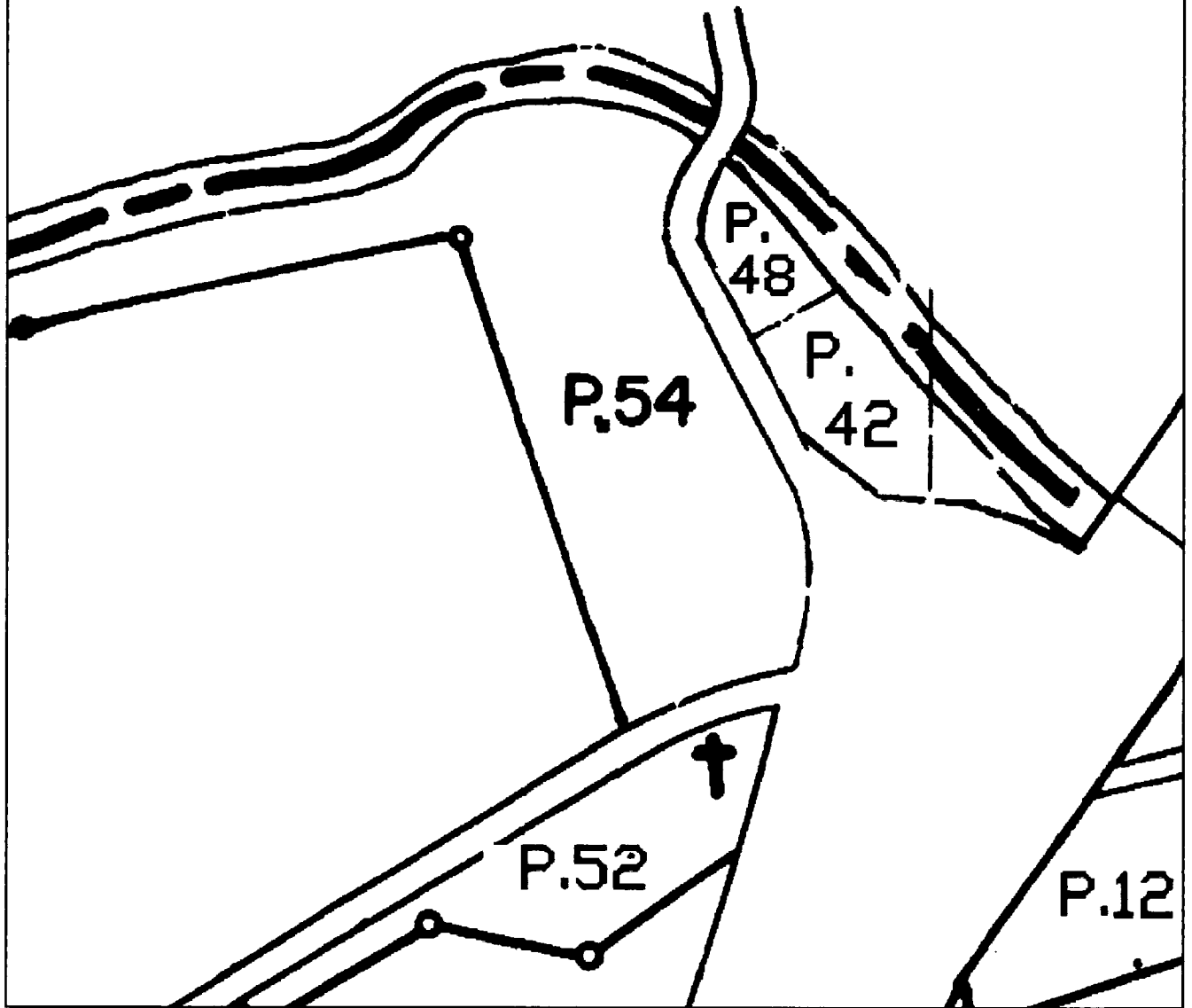
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PROJ SOUTH BRANCH RECREATIONAL AREA	Site Plan of the South Branch Recreational Survey District	
SCALE NOT TO SCALE		PROJ NO INVENTORY NUMBER
FILE D100001036.09		HO-751



PROJ South Branch Recreational Area

SCALE NOT TO SCALE

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South Branch Recreational Area Survey District
Property Boundary - Tax map 4, parcel 54

URS

PROJ NO

INVENTORY NO.

HO-751

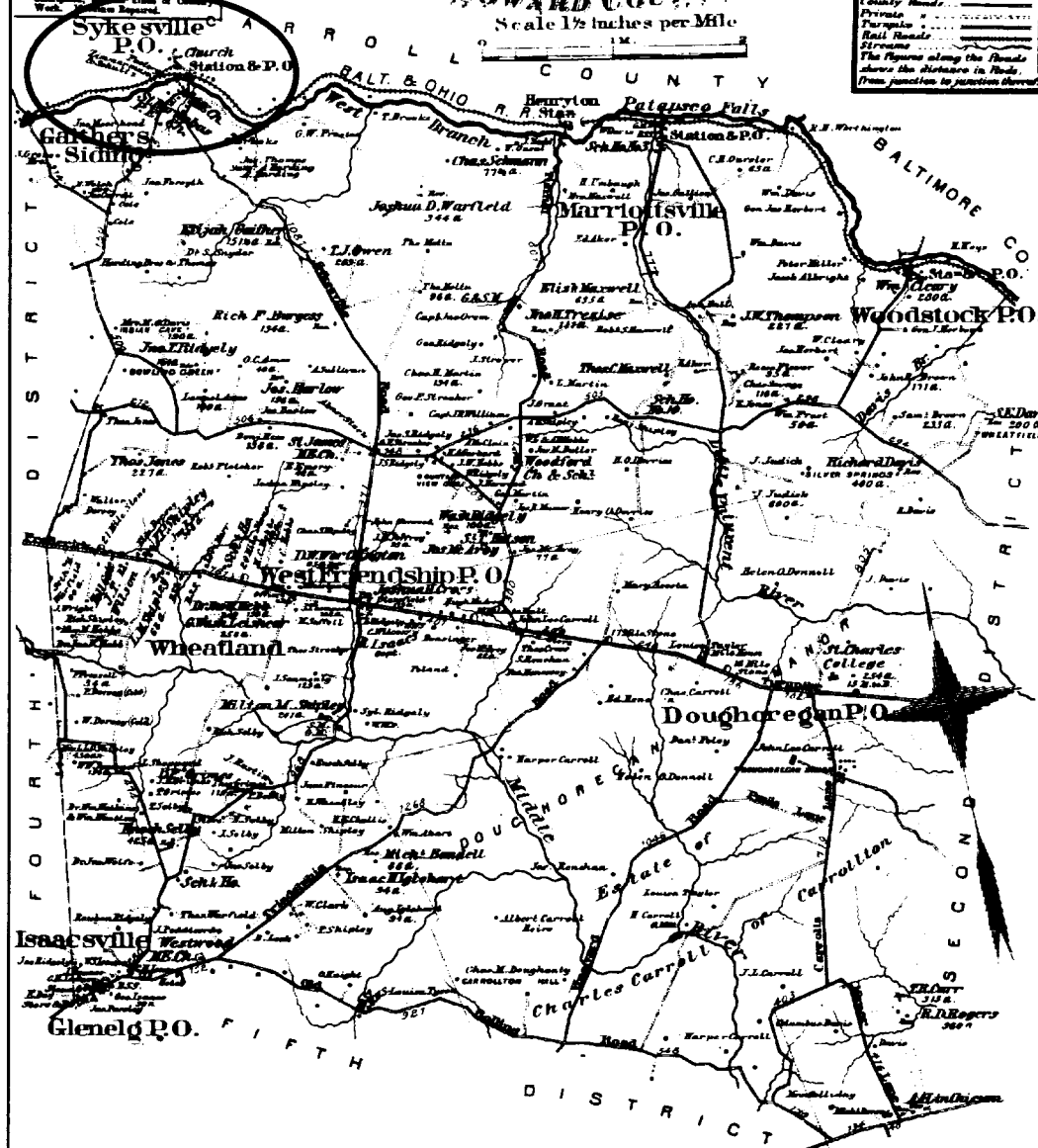
Third District.
BLACKSMITH.
J. T. ISAAC.
Blacksmith in General.
Woodstock, Howard Co.
Repairs and Overhauls on hand and built
to Order. Cost kept low. Satisfaction
guaranteed. None Required.

CROSS DISTRICT

HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 1 1/2 inches per Mile

EXPLANATIONS
Dist. & Co. Lines
County Roads
Private
Turnpikes
Rail Roads
Streams
The figures along the Roads
show the distance in Miles
from junction to junction thereof



PROJ South Branch Recreational Area

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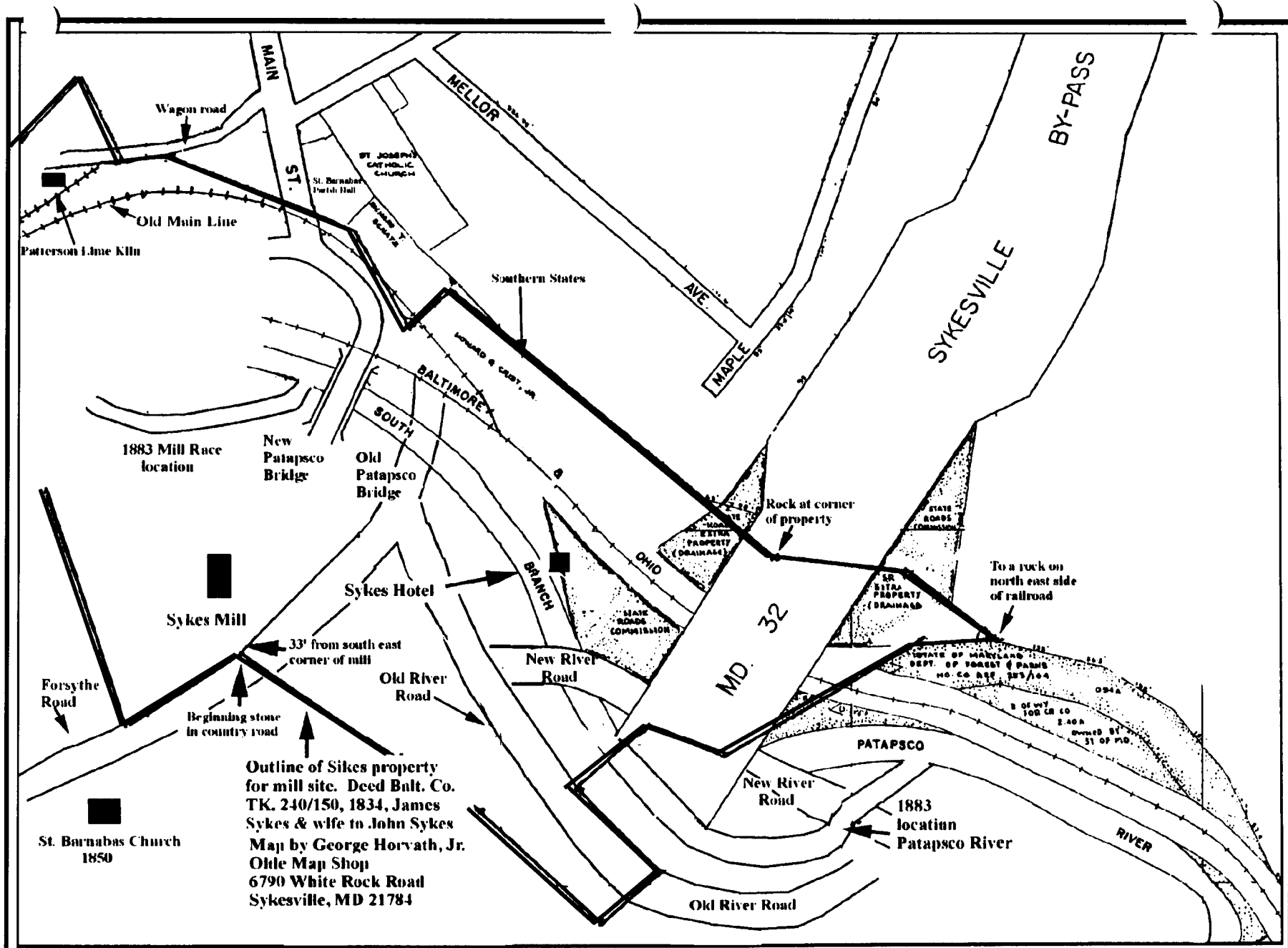
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Howard Co., Maryland, 1878.

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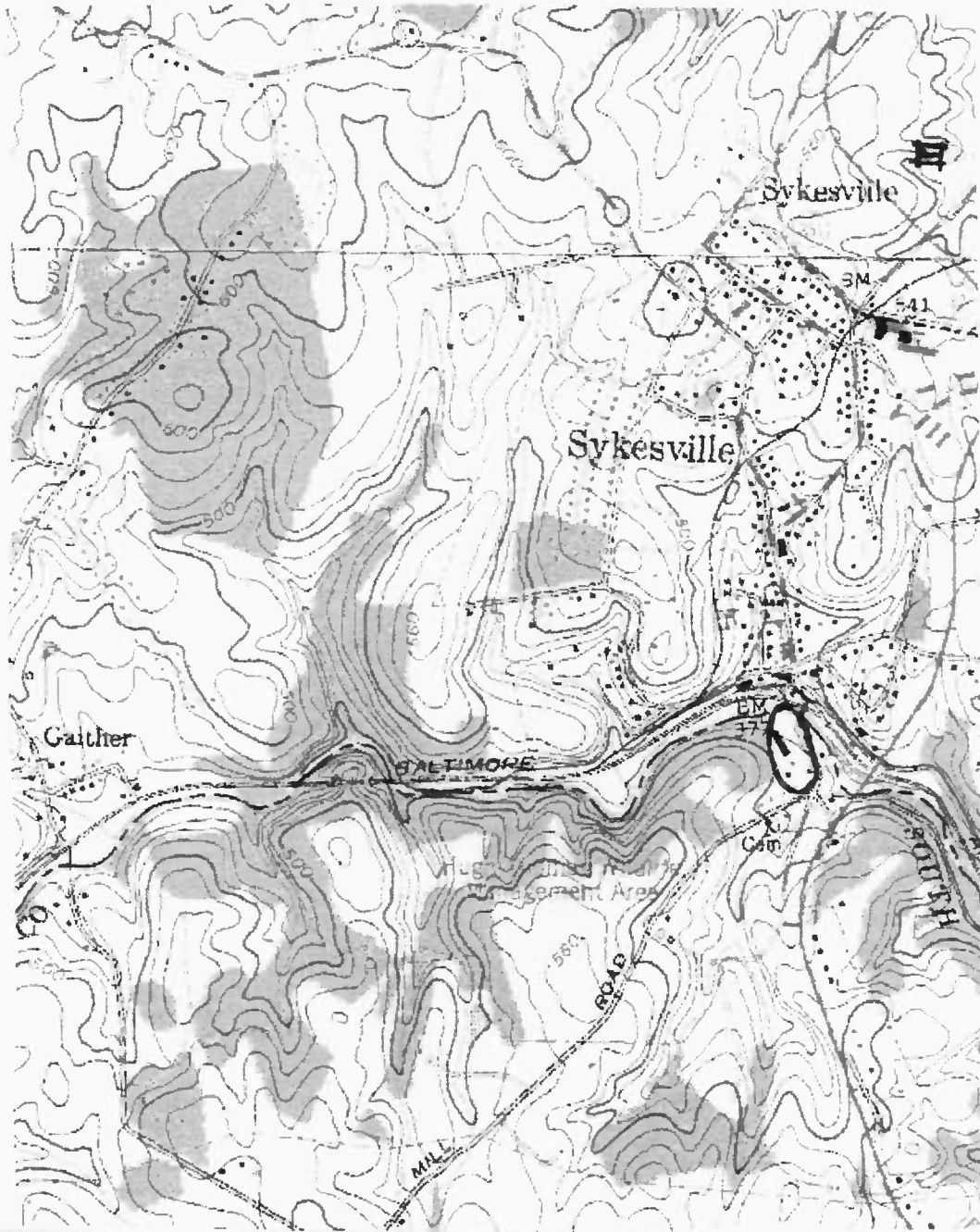
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Map of the Original Sykes Mill Property

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PROJ NO
INVENTORY NUMBER HO-751



PROJ South Branch Recreational Area

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South Branch Recreational Area Survey District Shown on
USGS Sykesville Quad

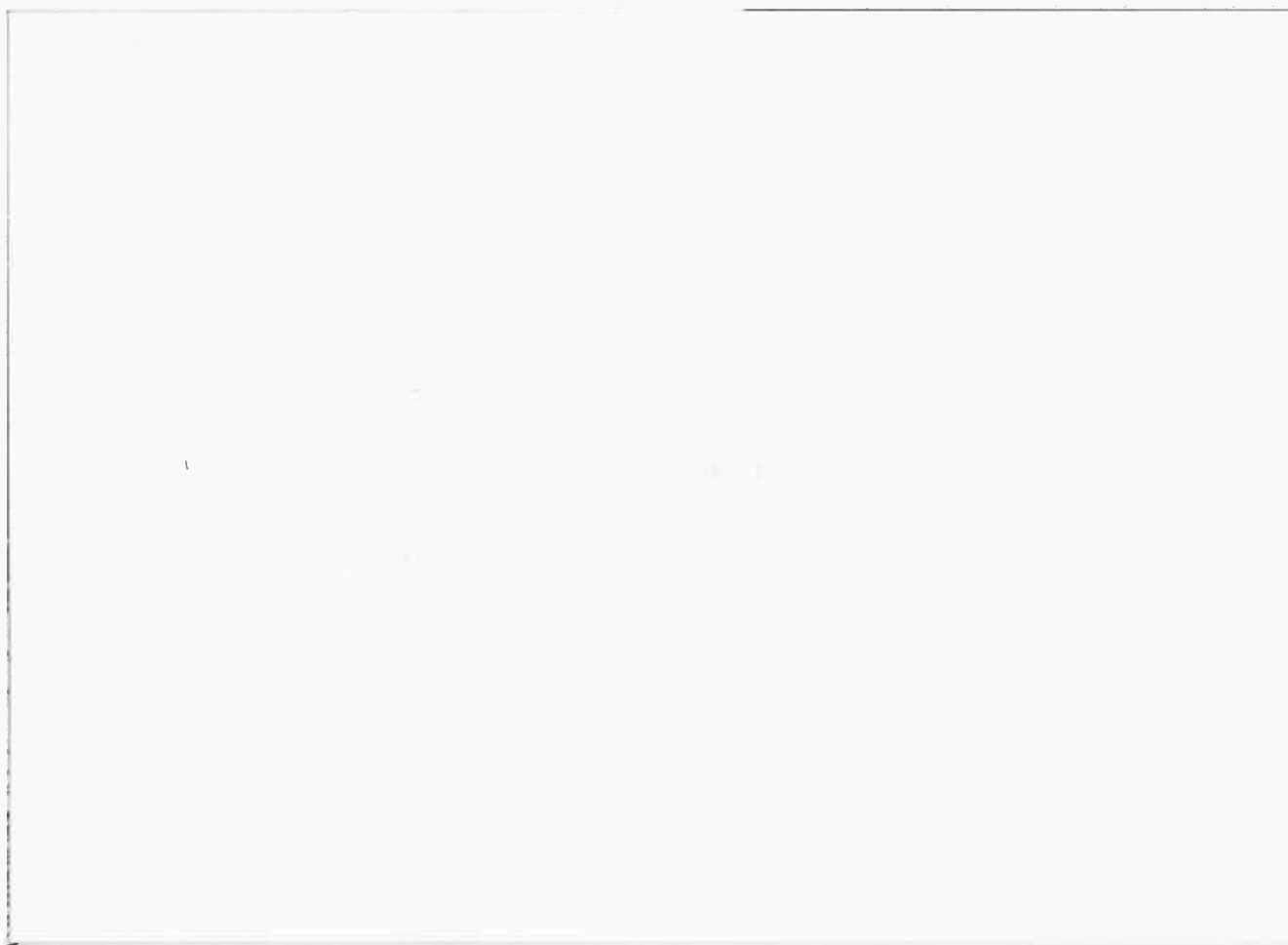
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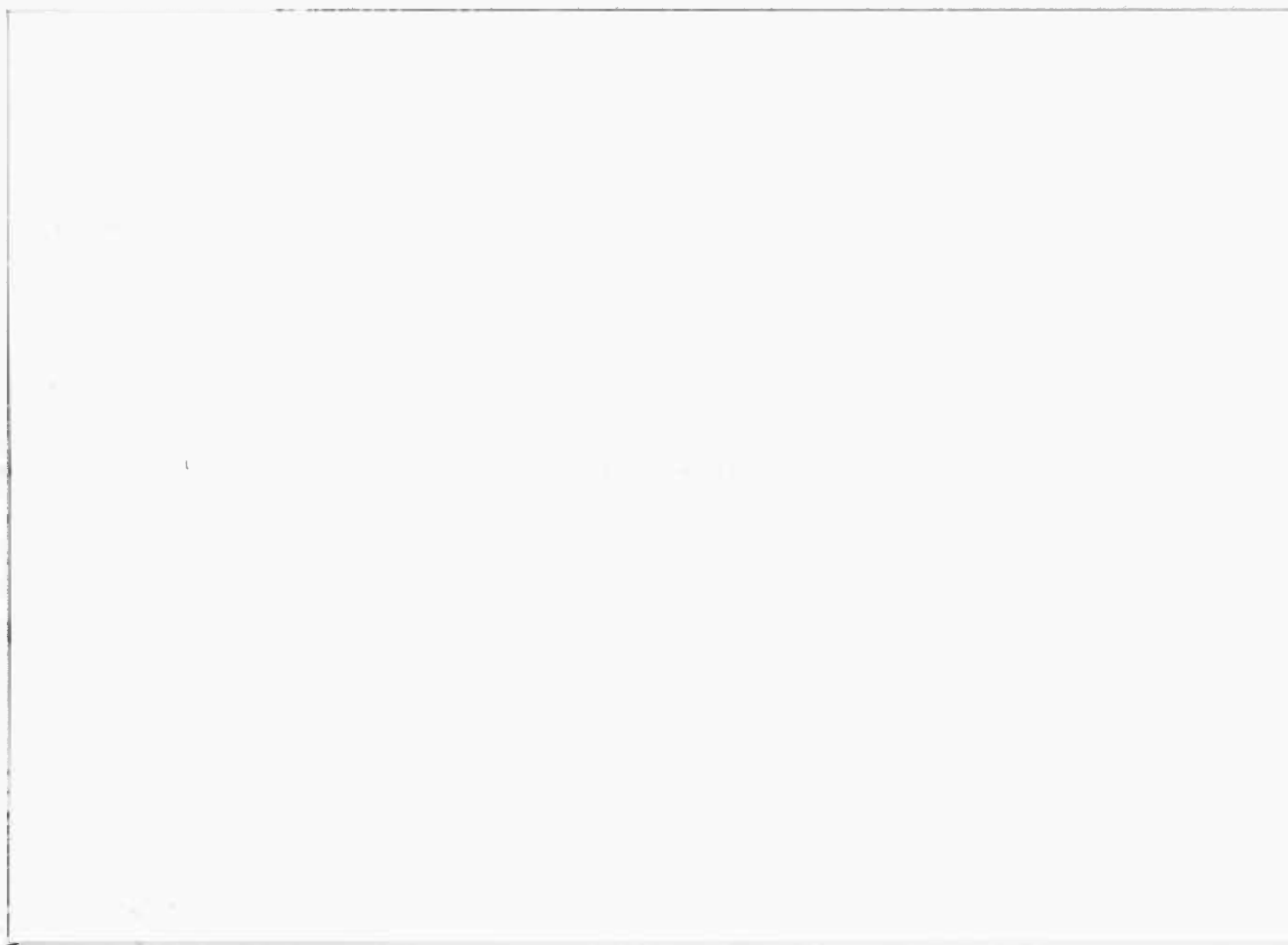
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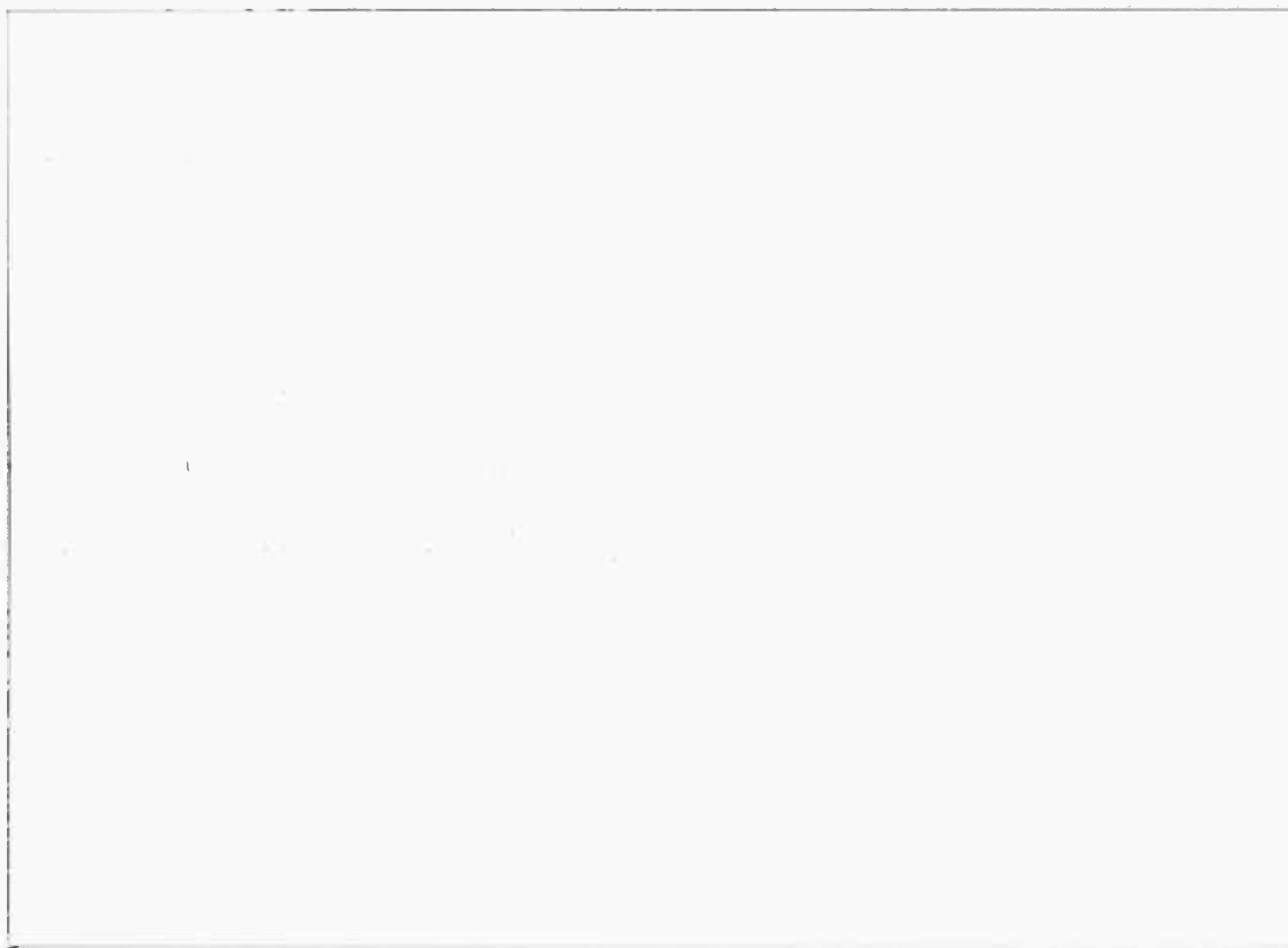




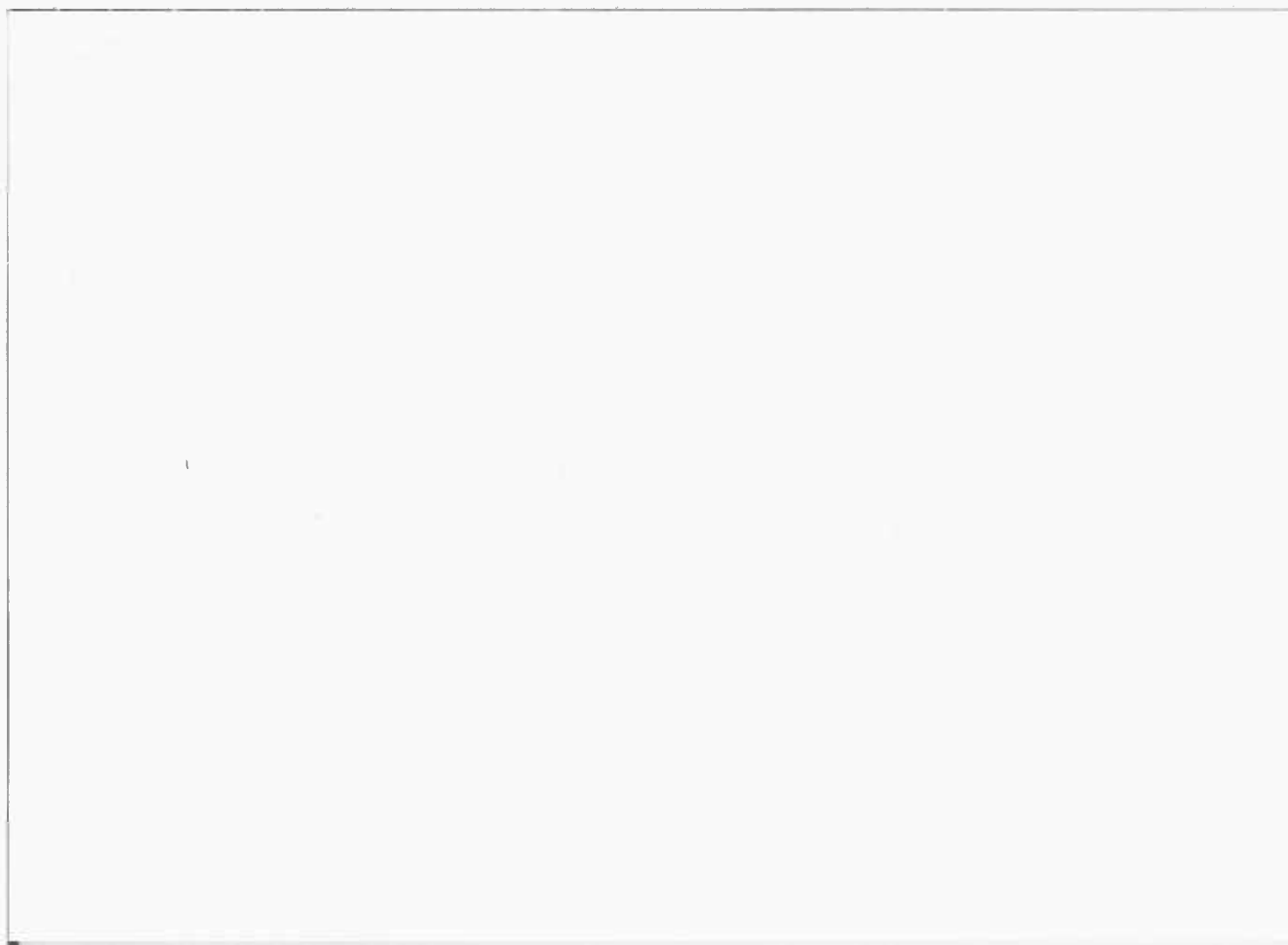




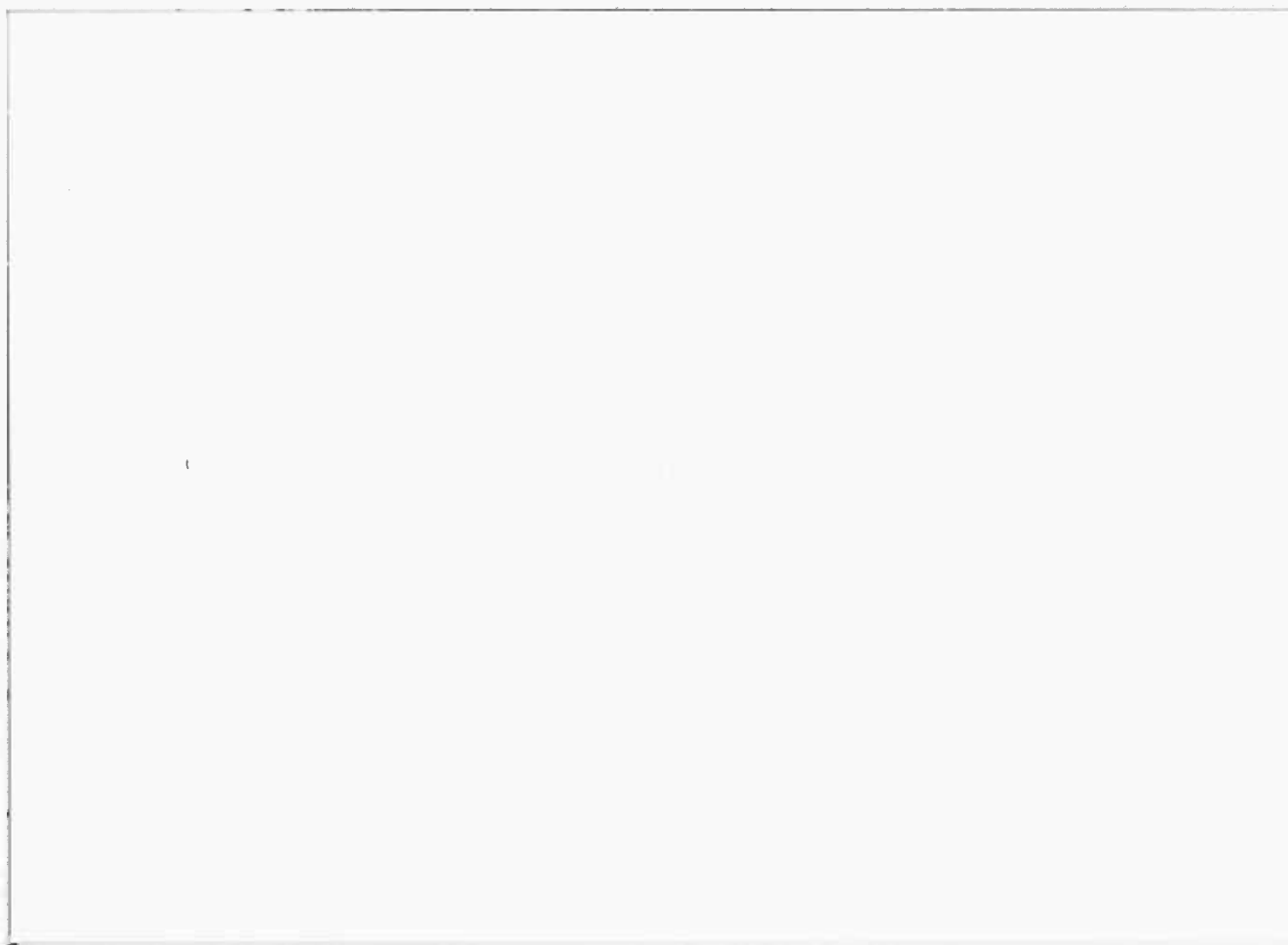






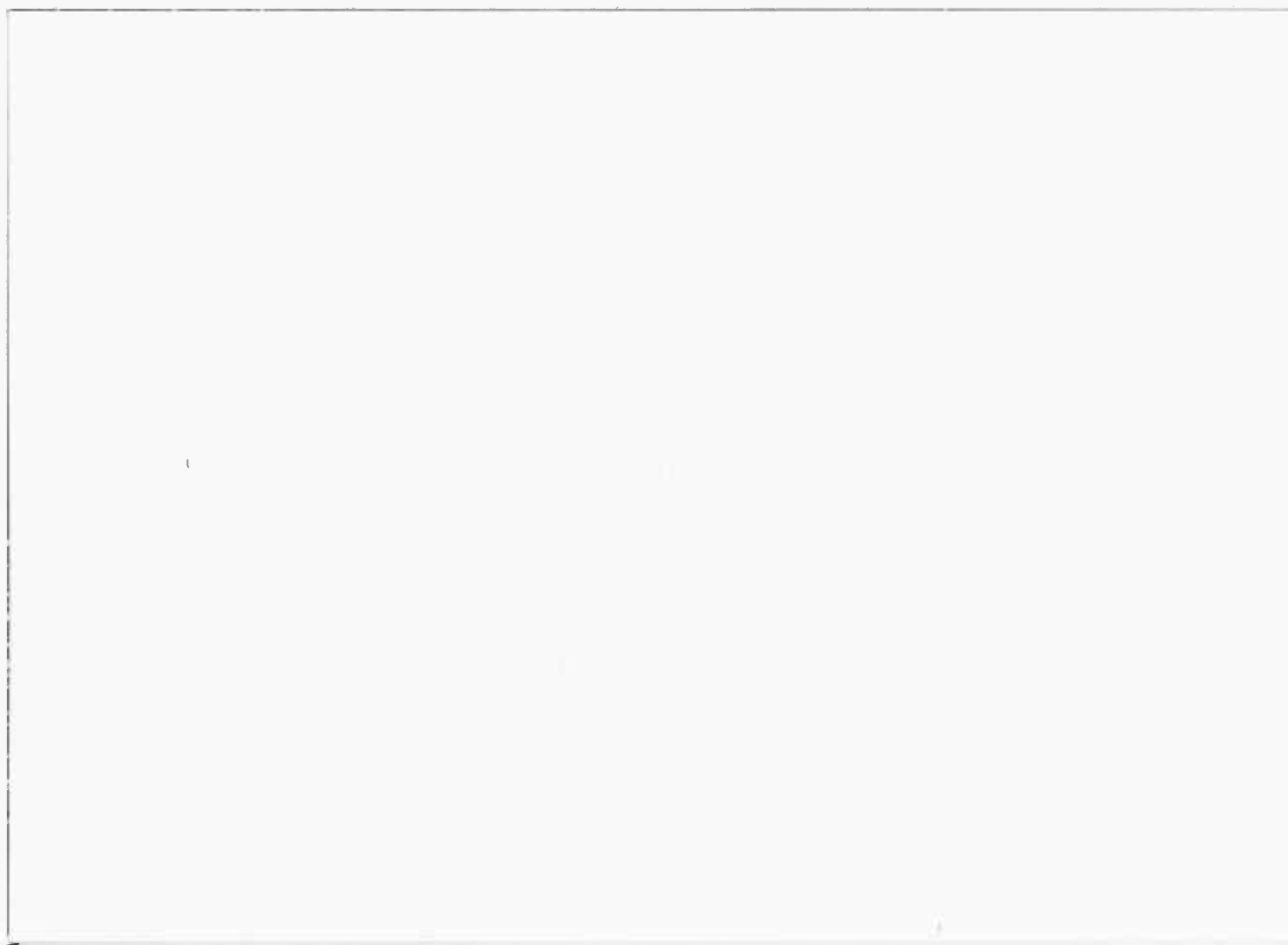




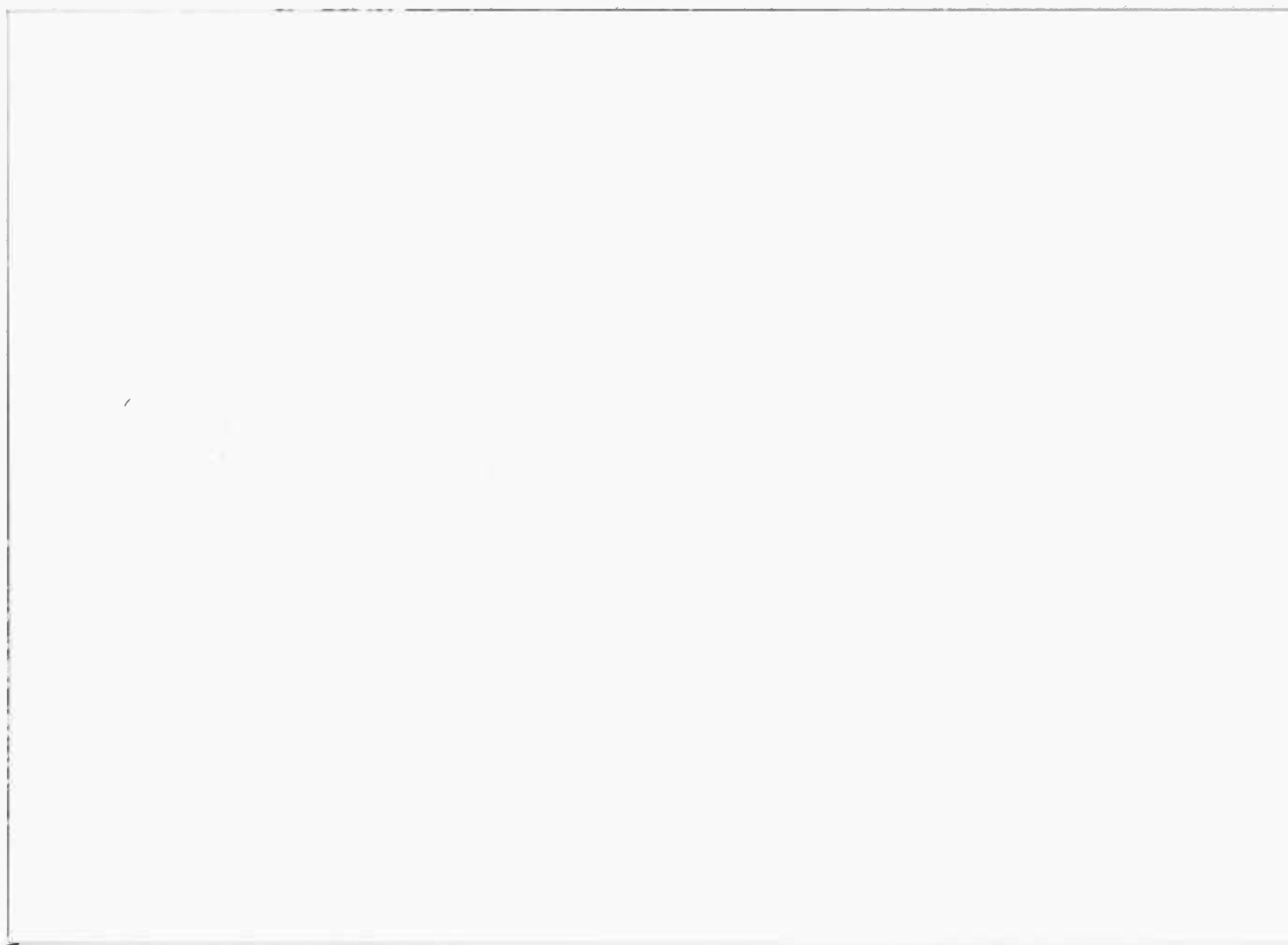


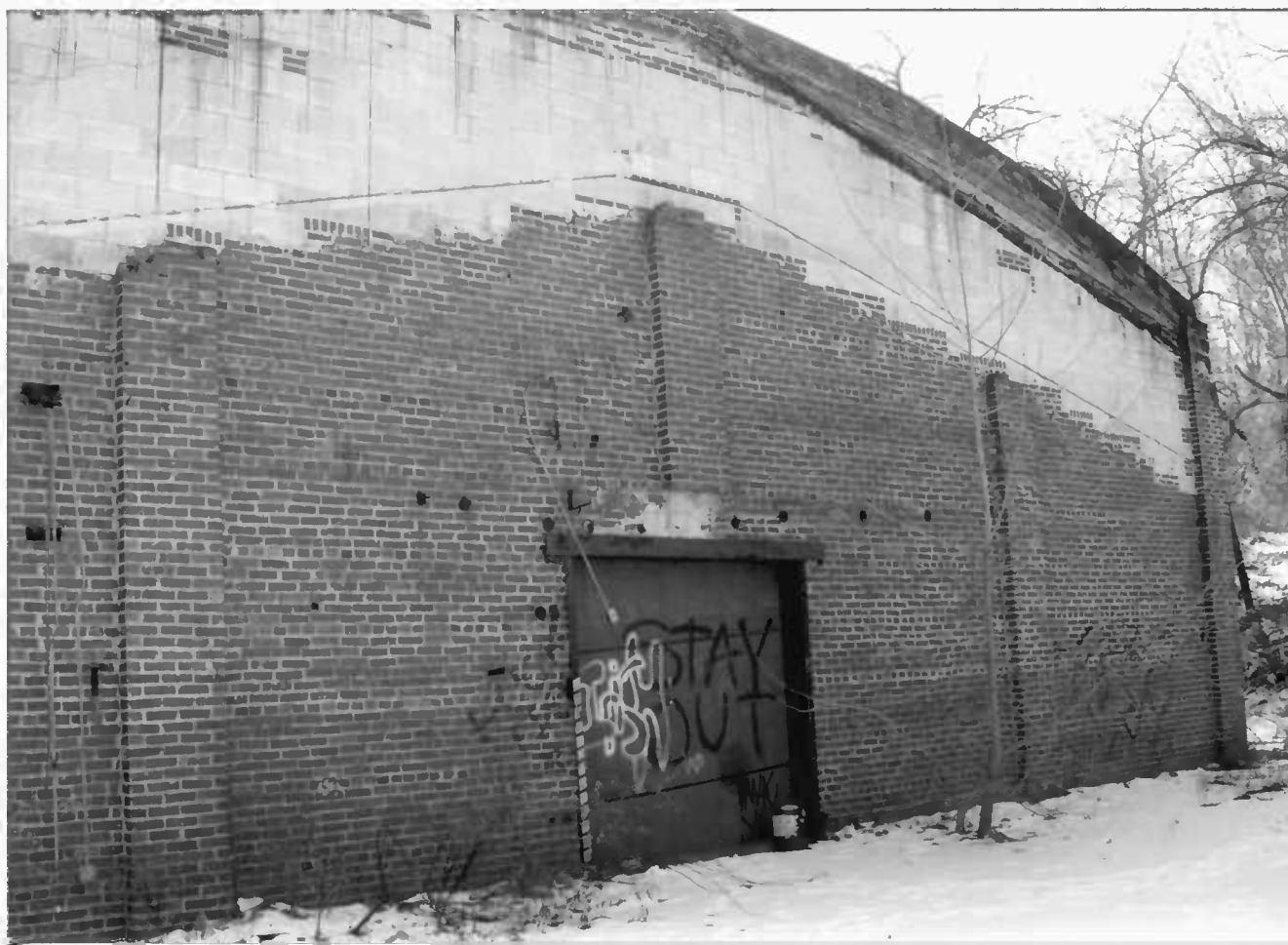


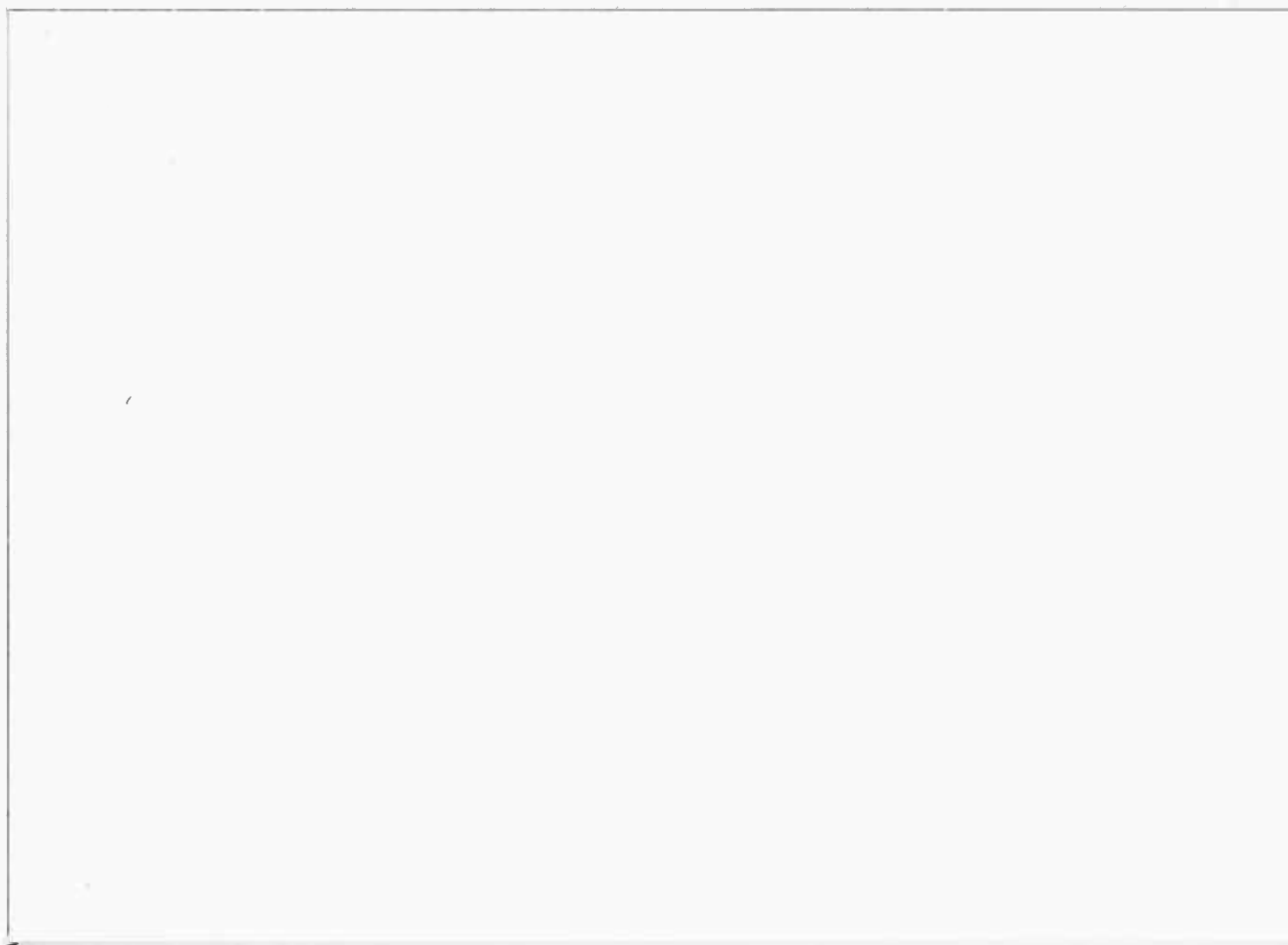




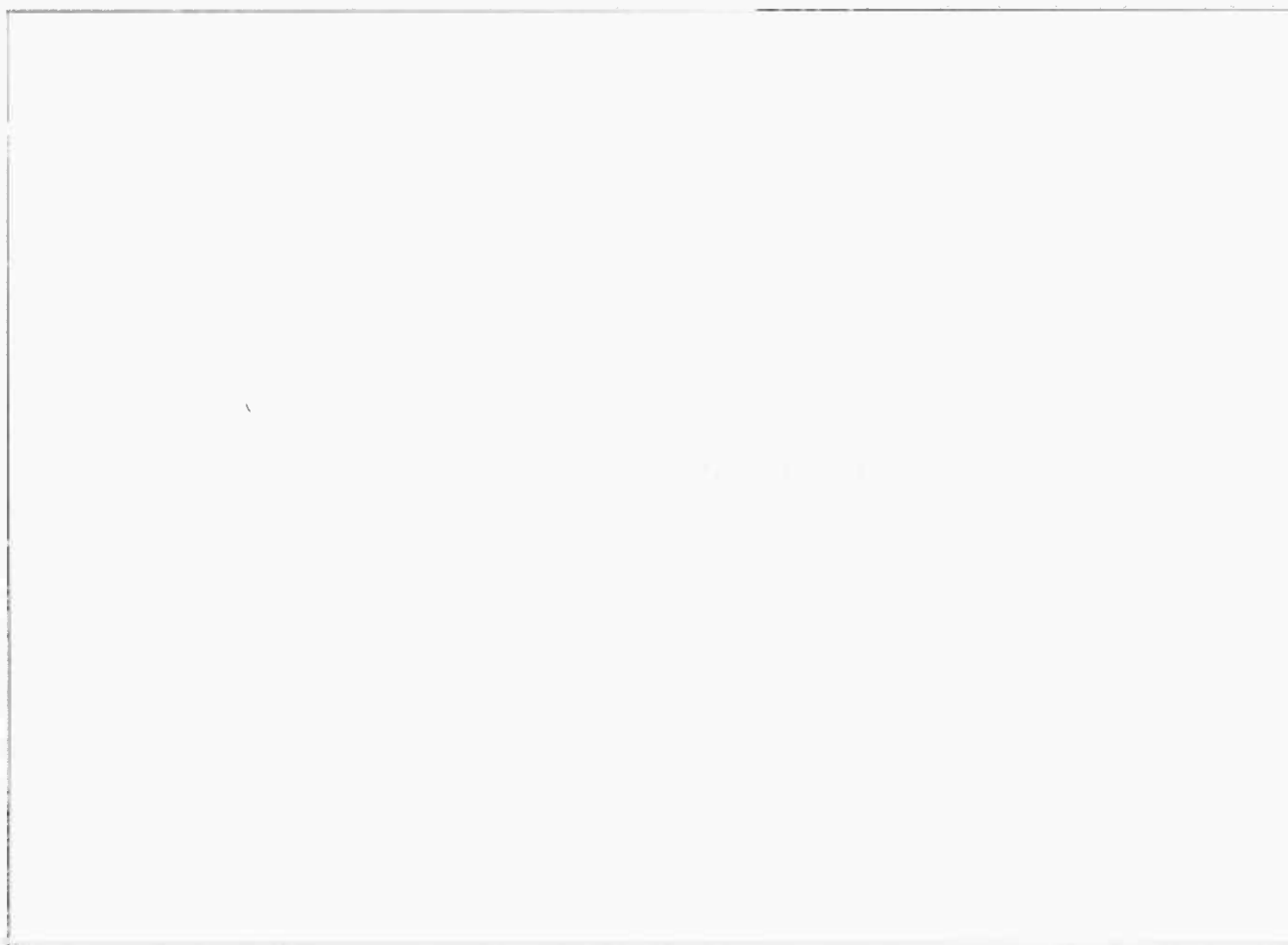




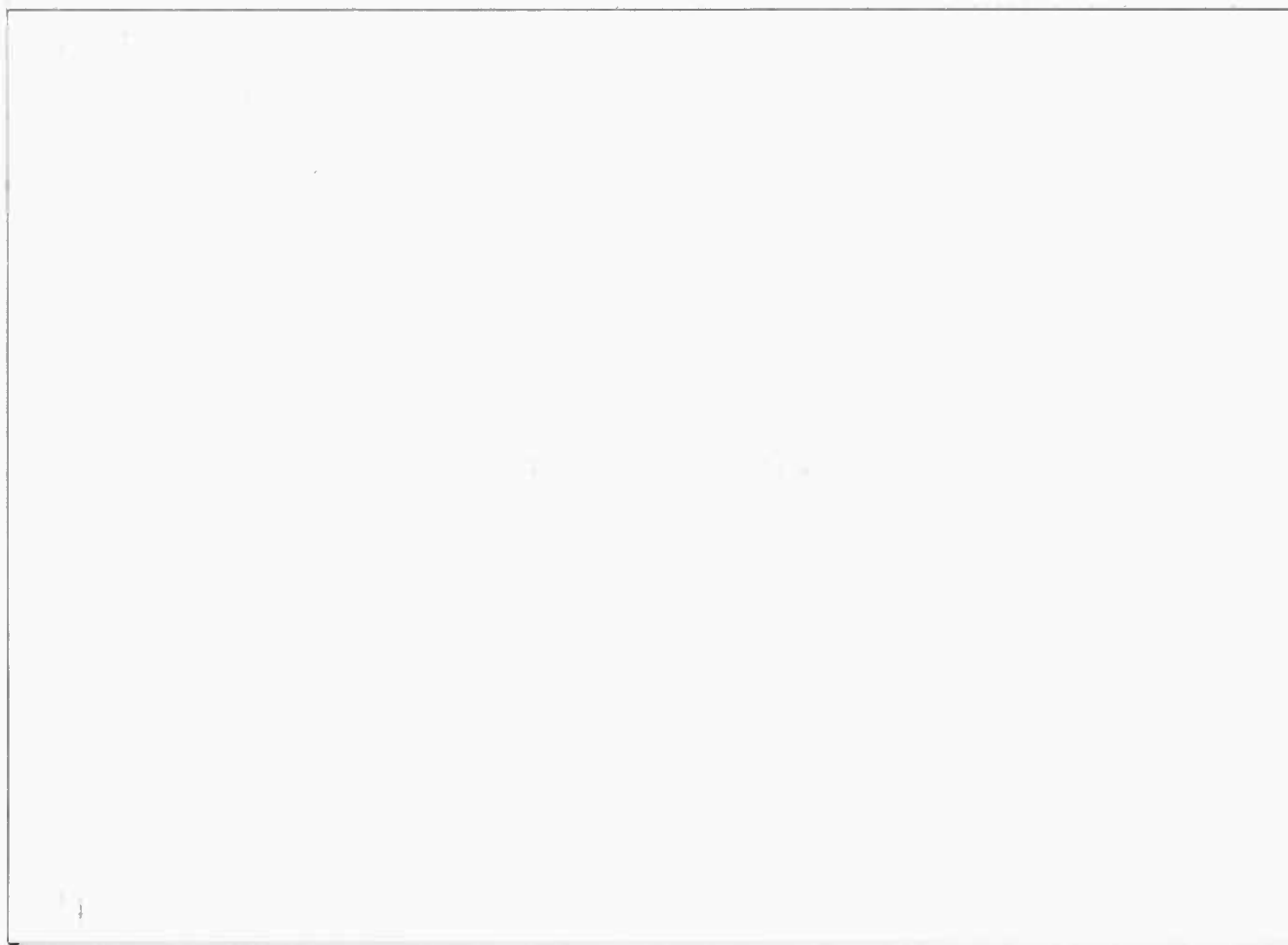




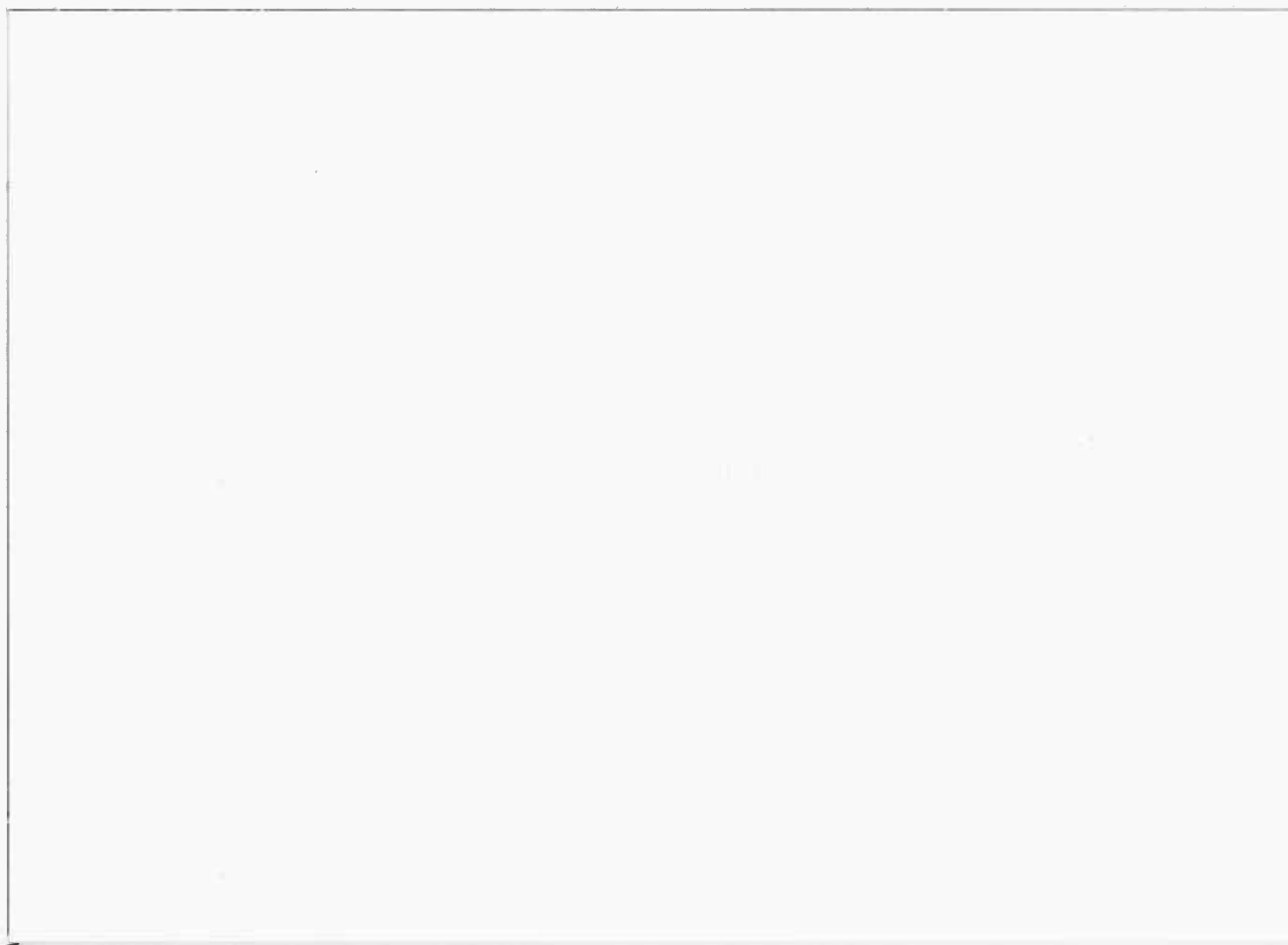




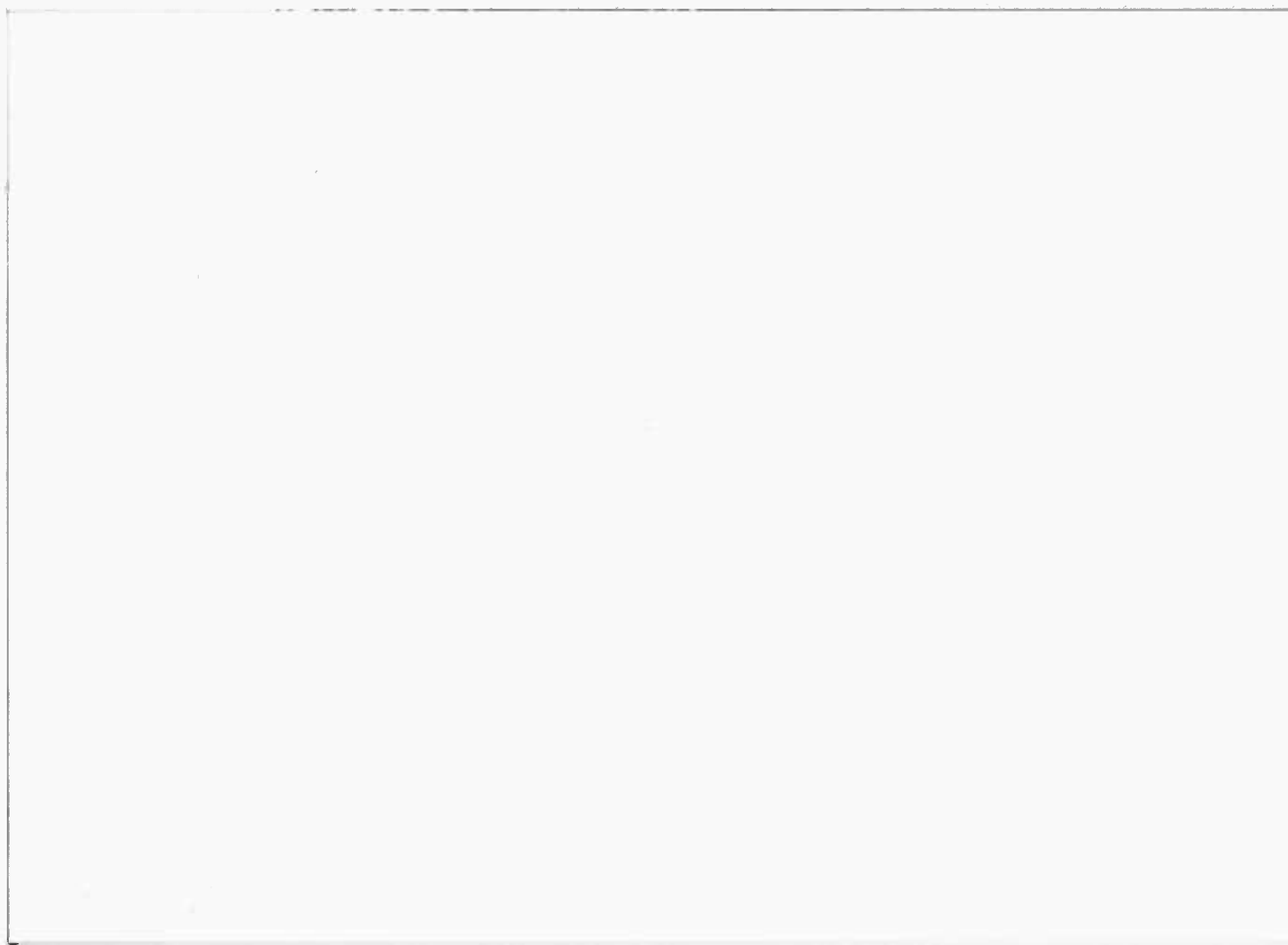








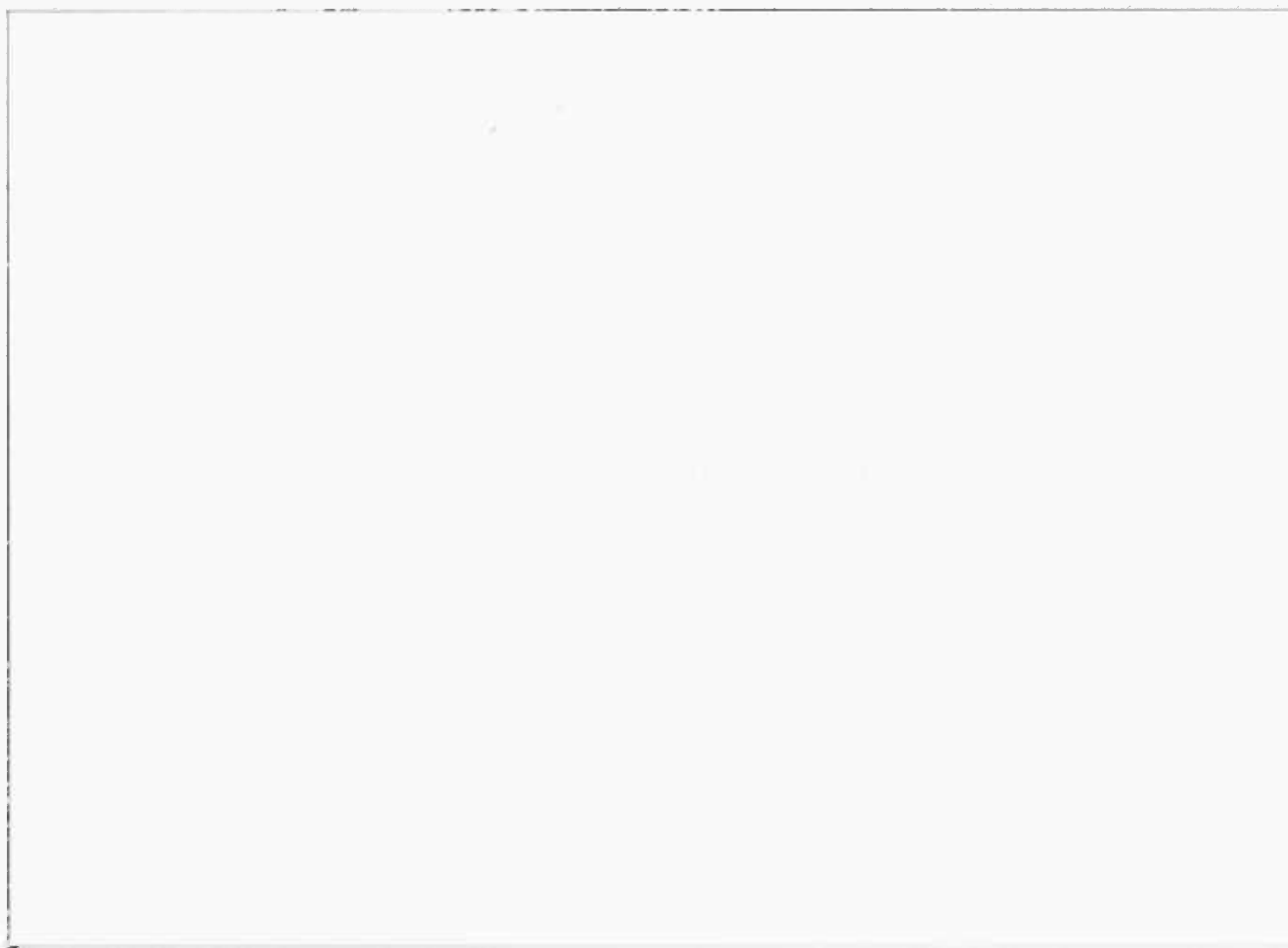




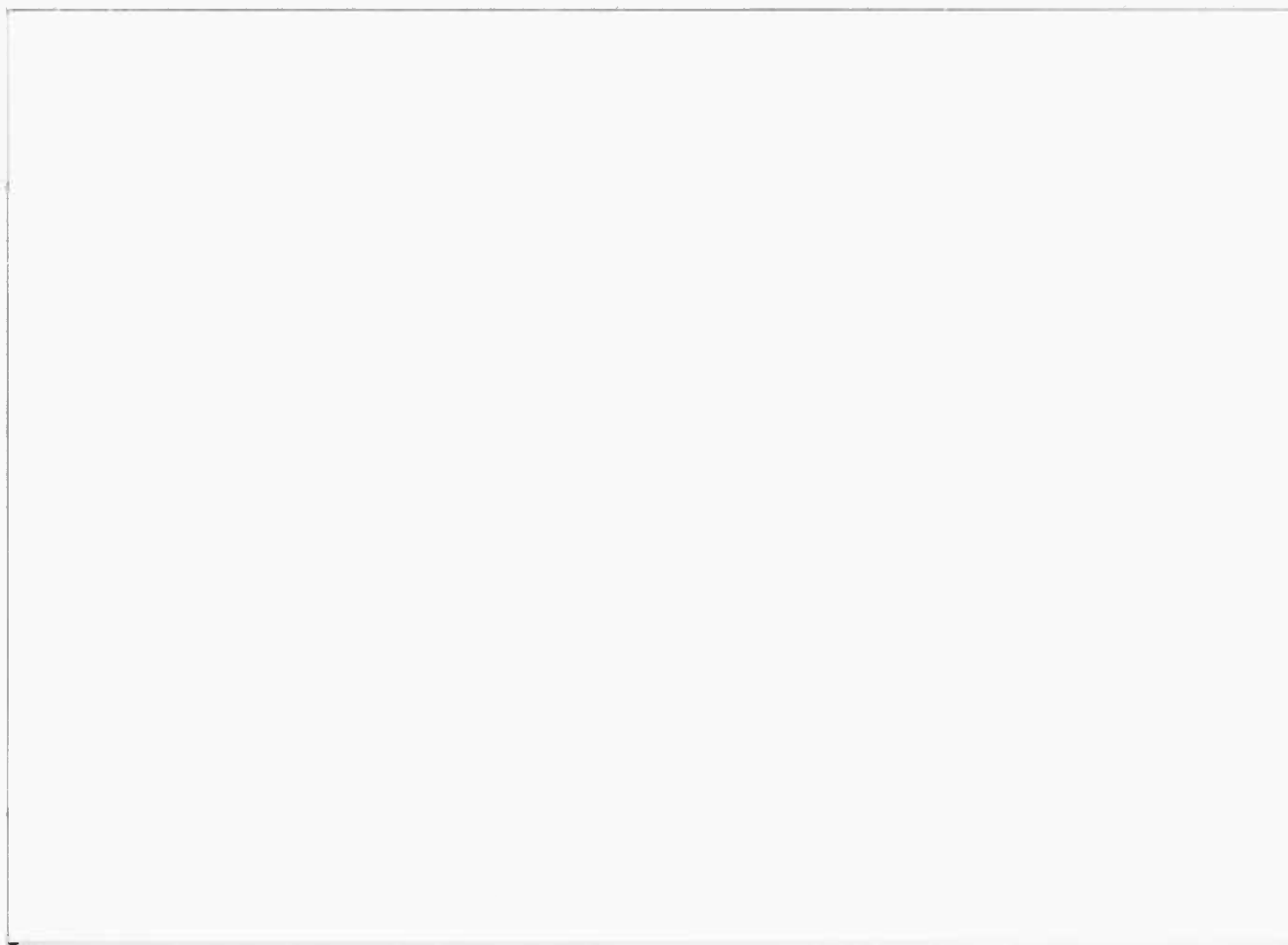
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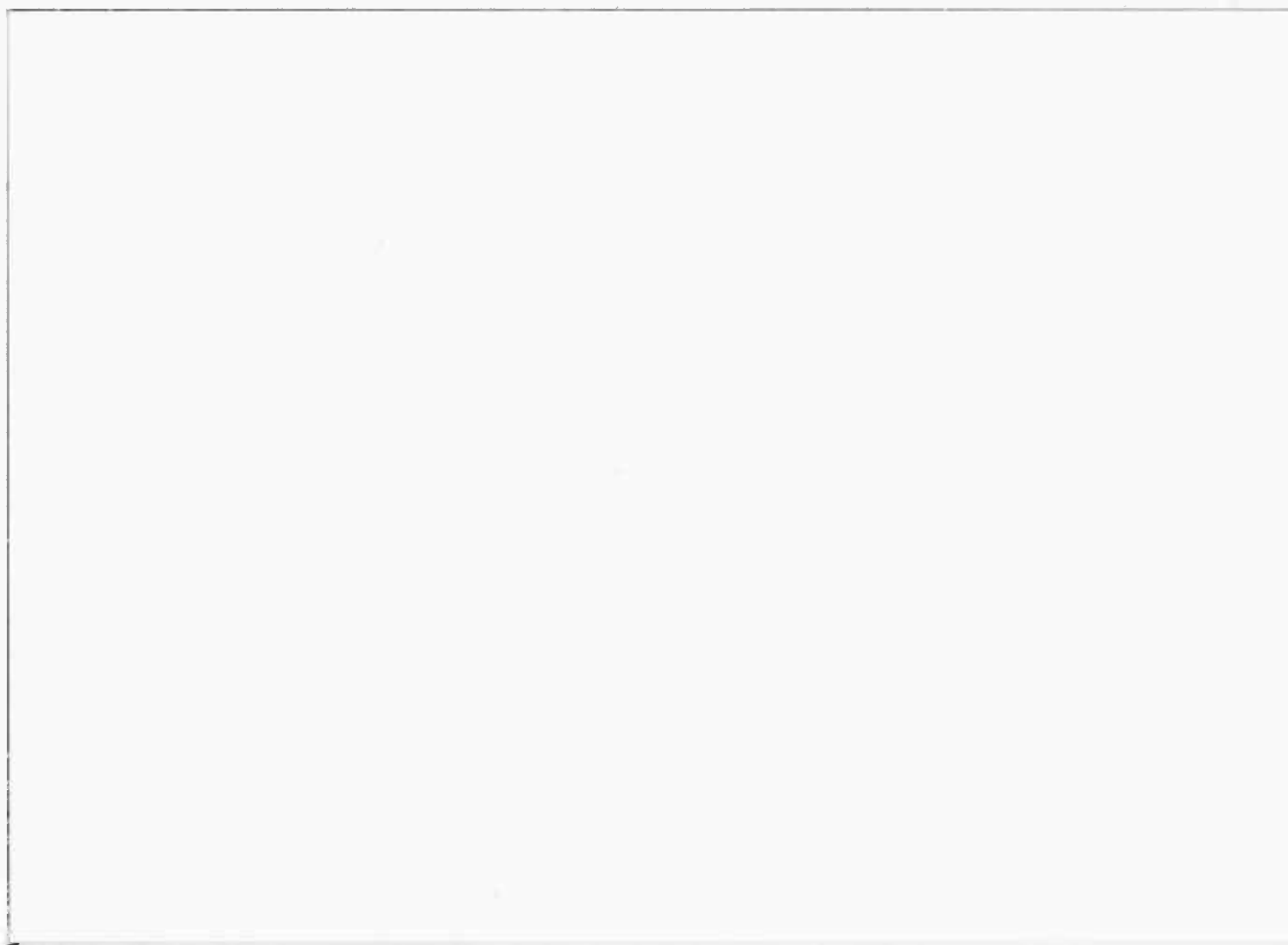
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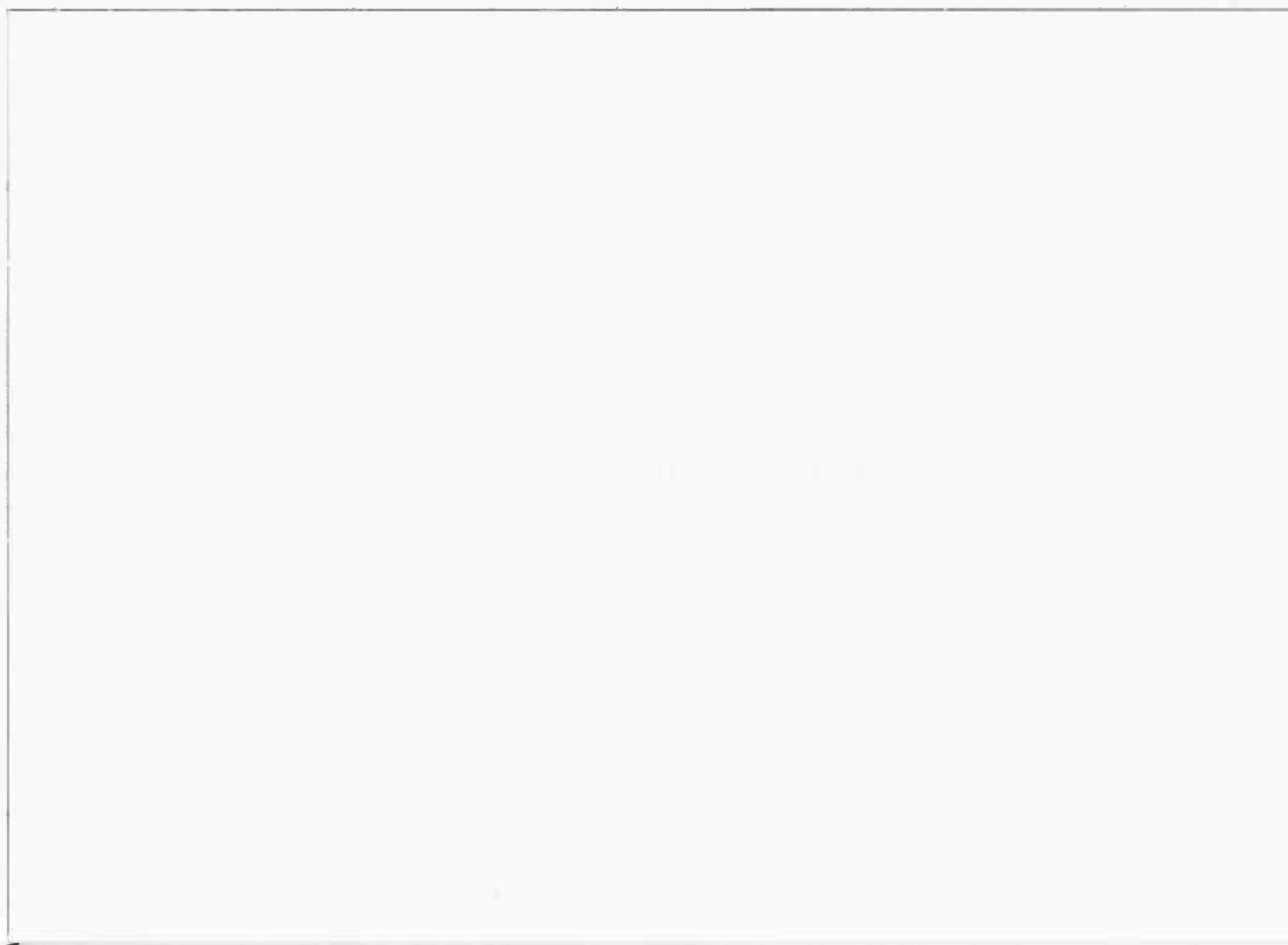


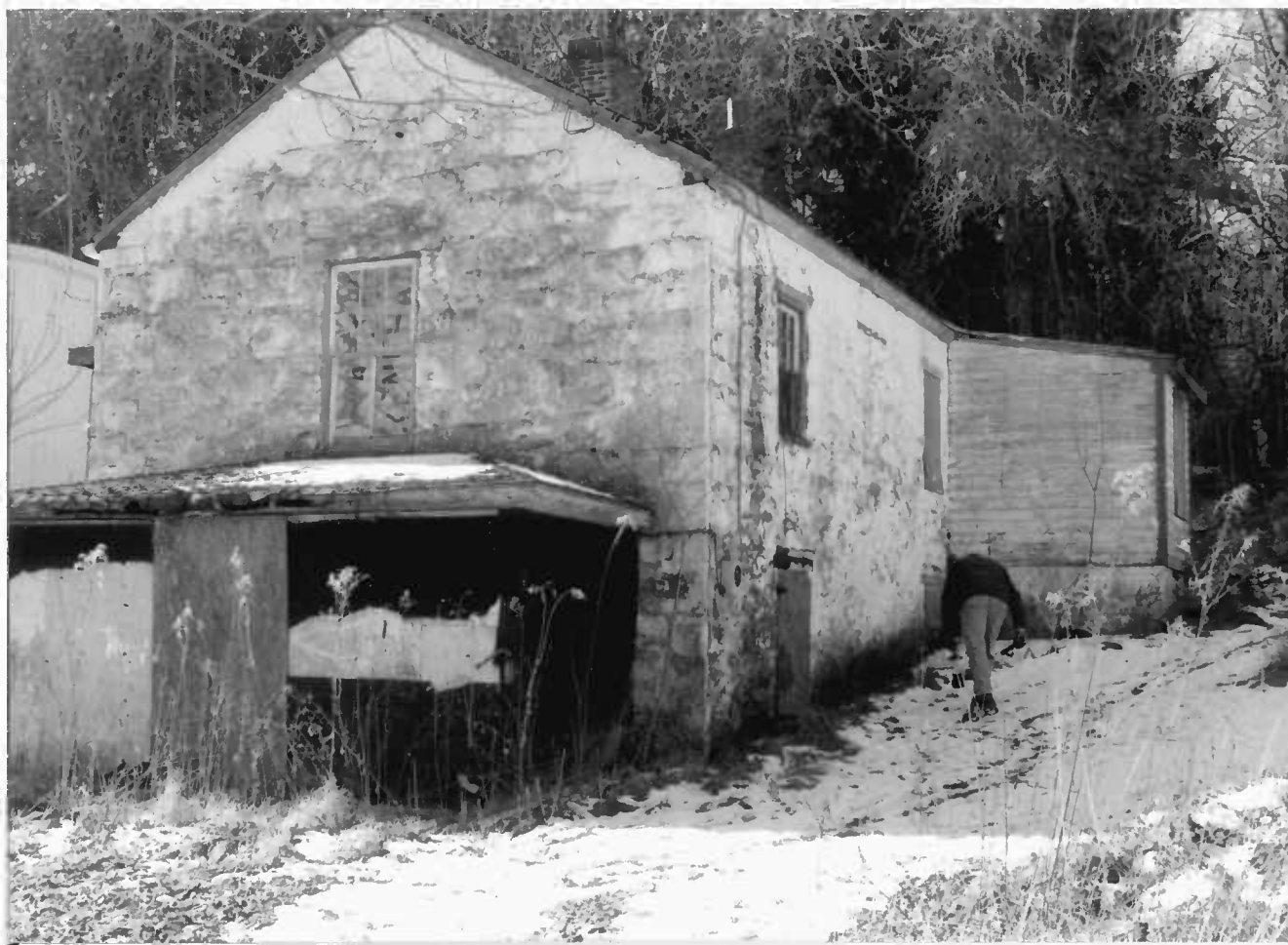


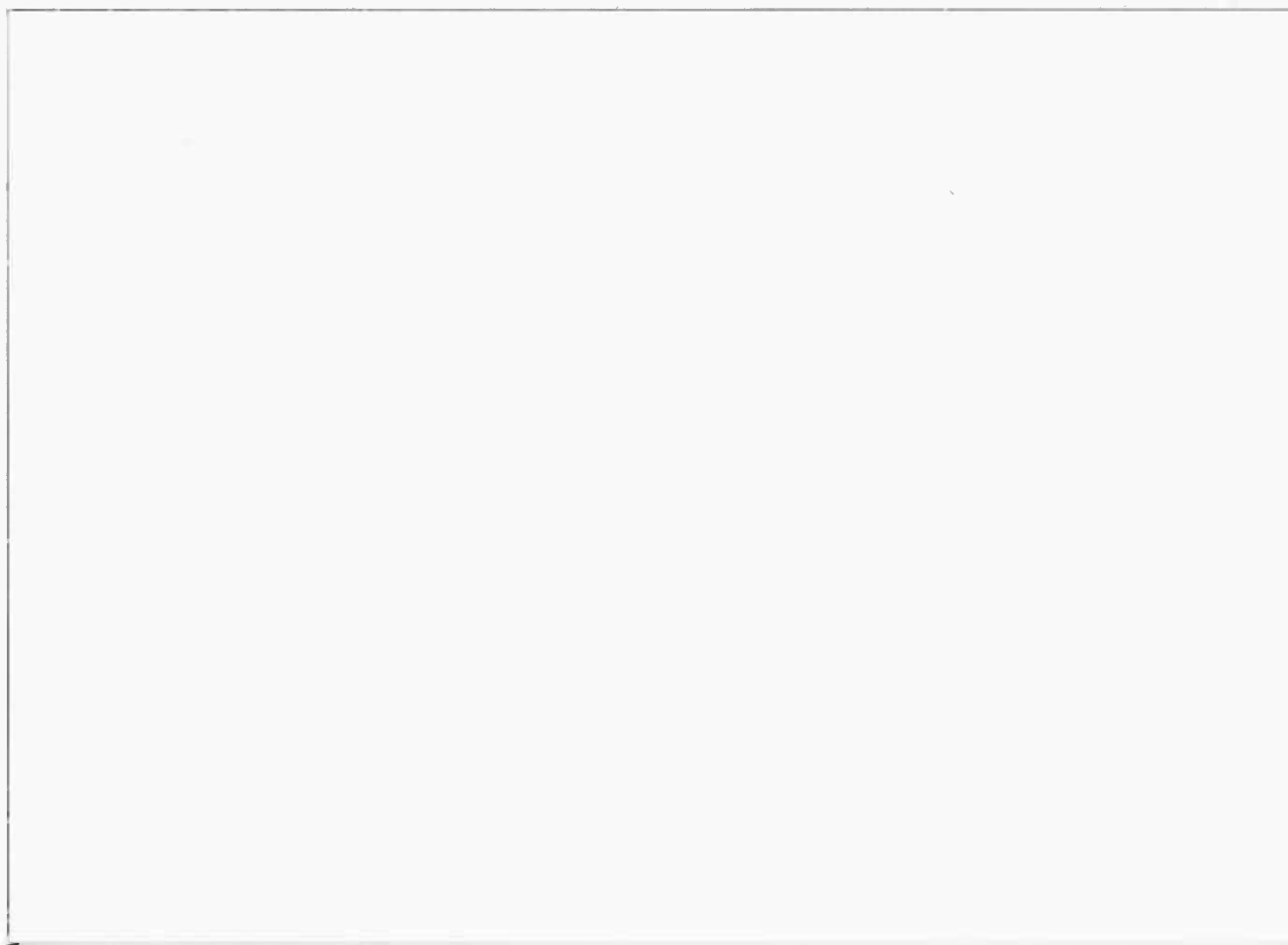




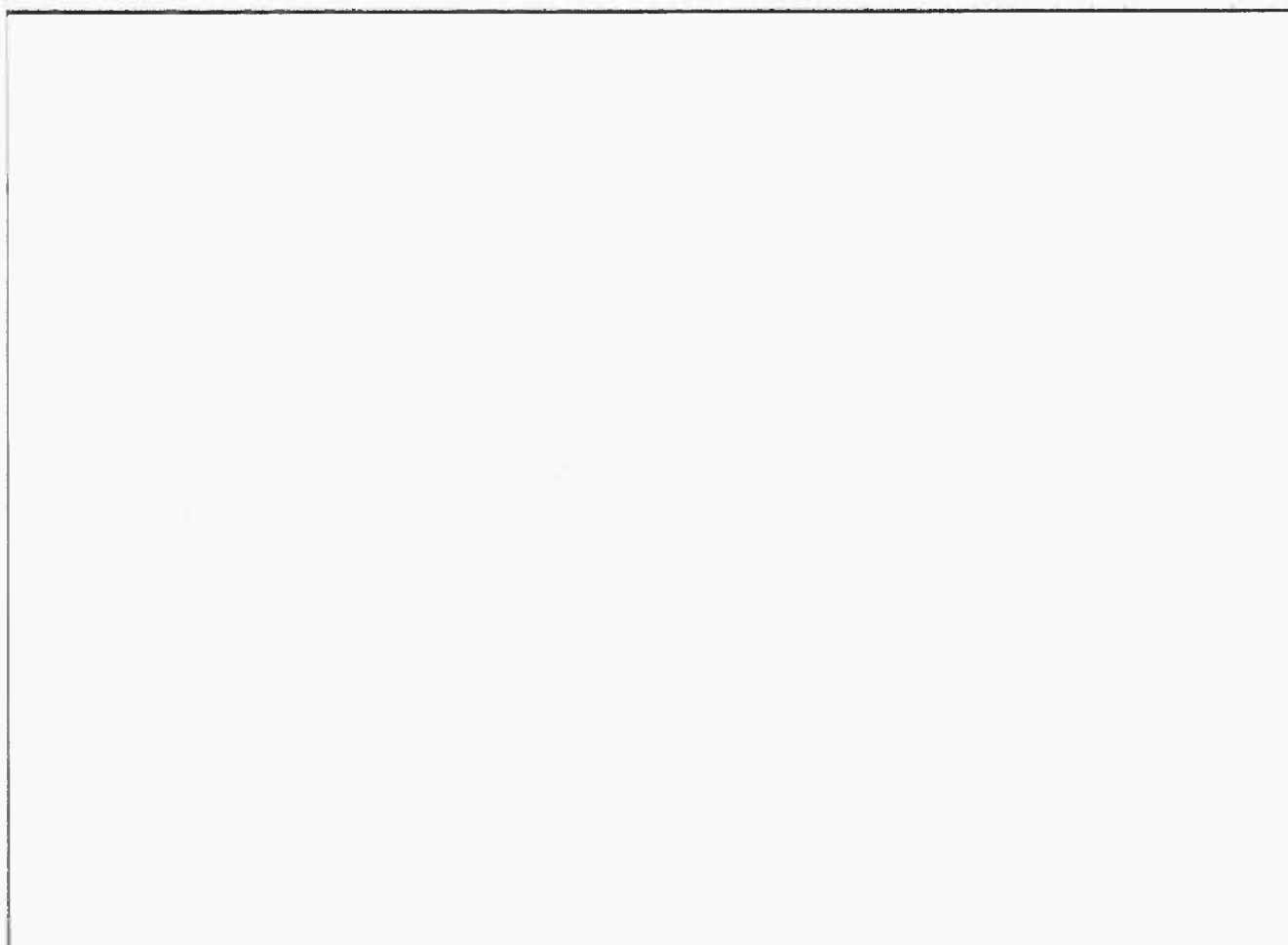




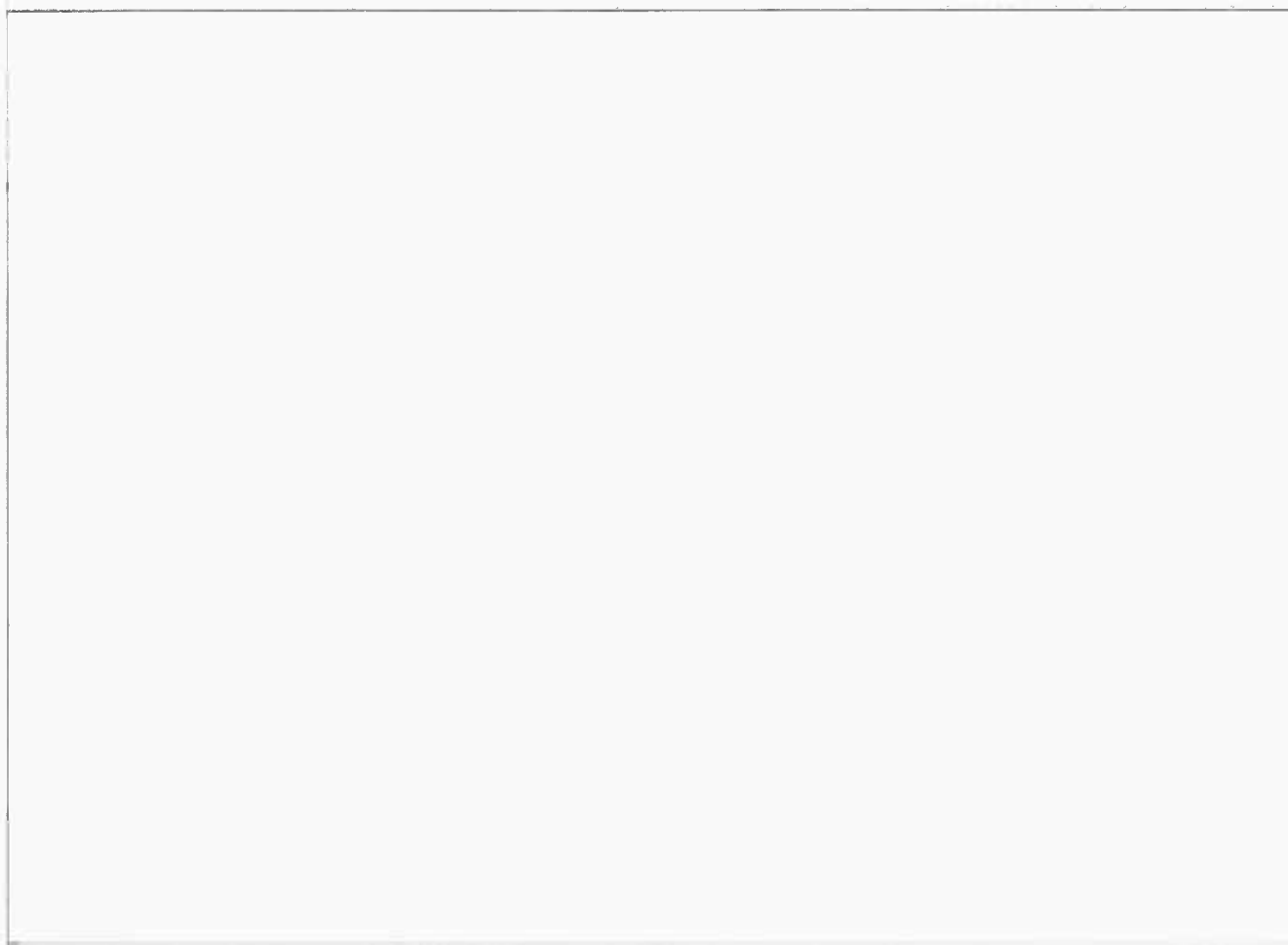




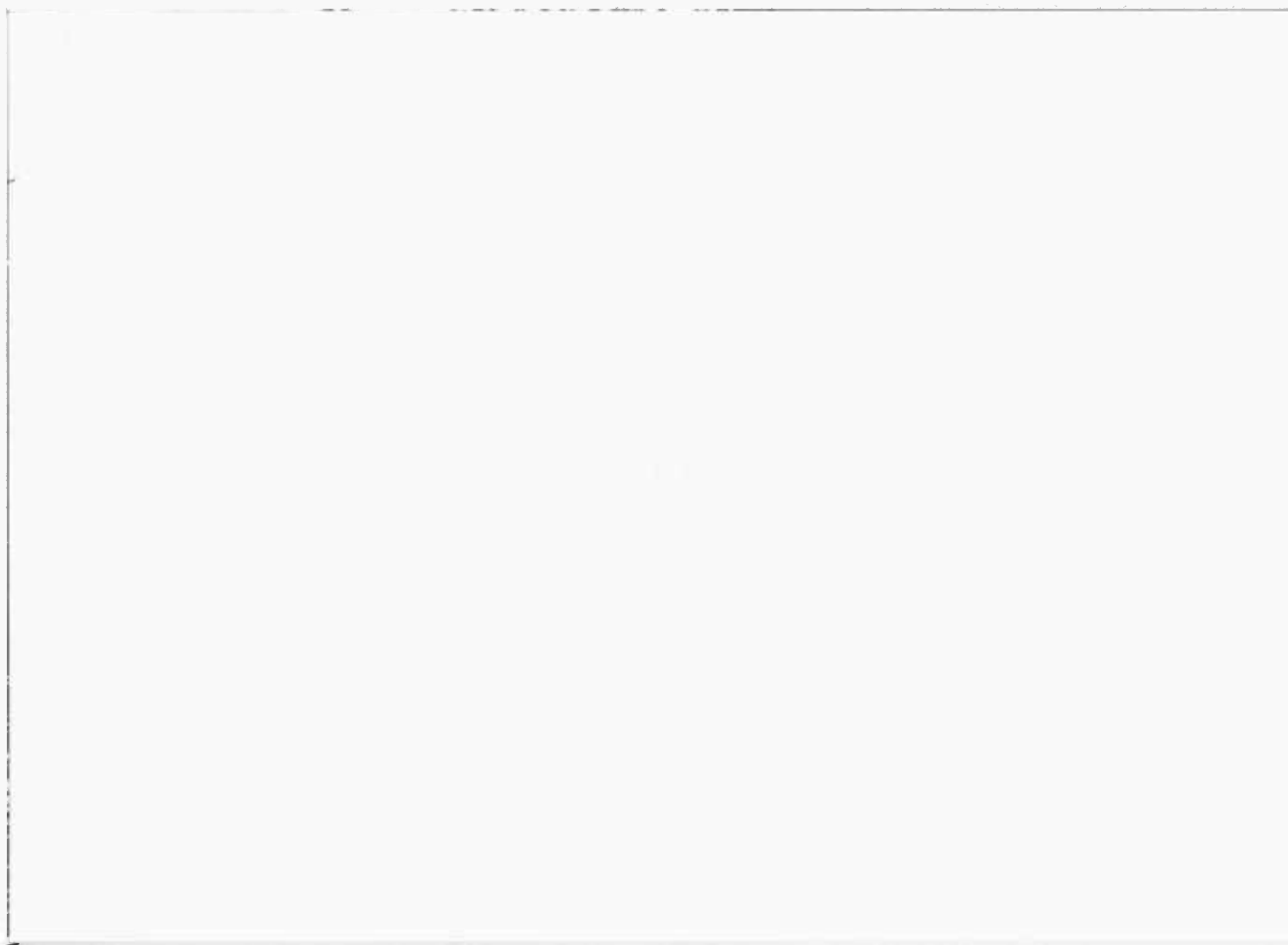




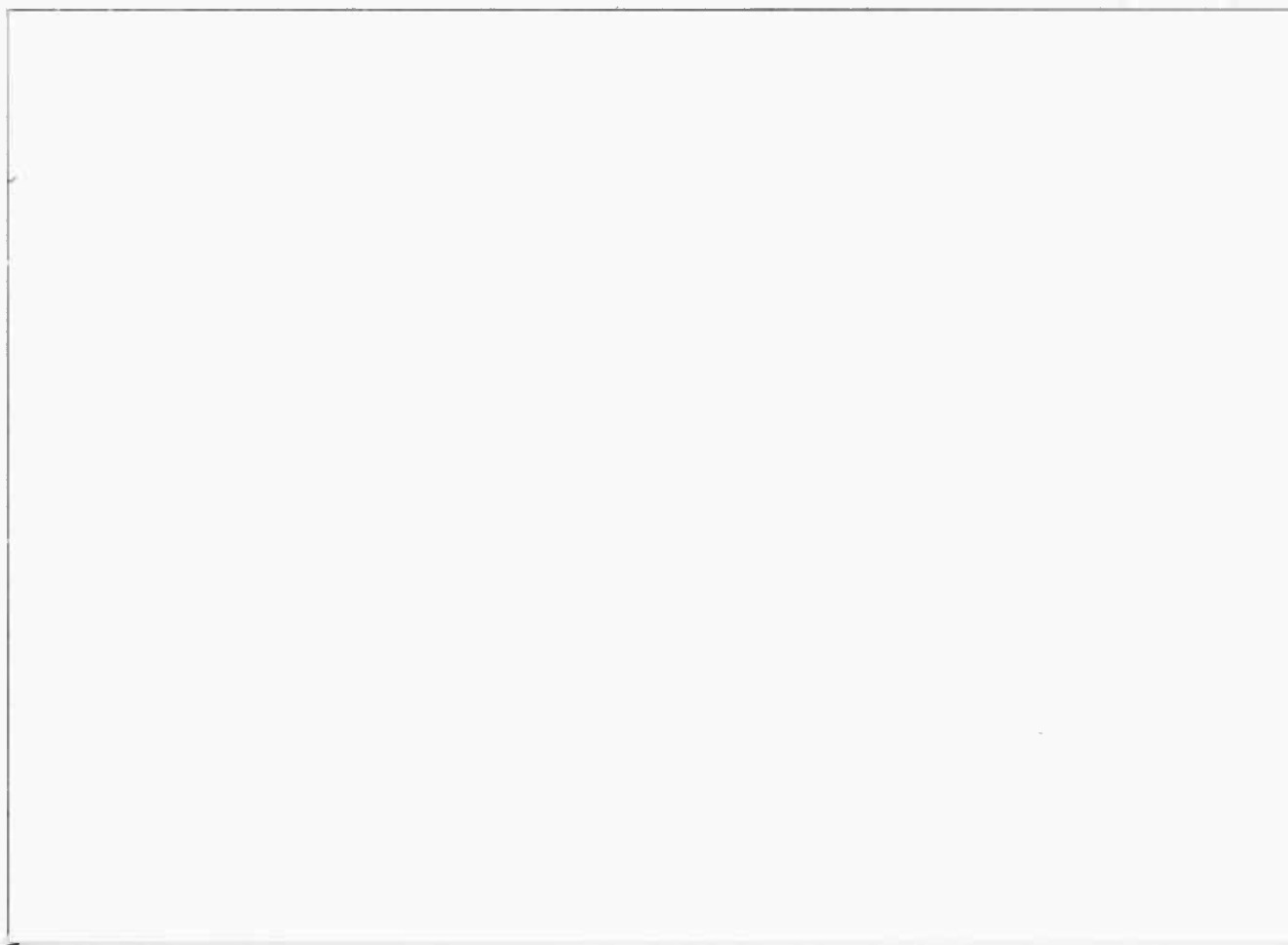






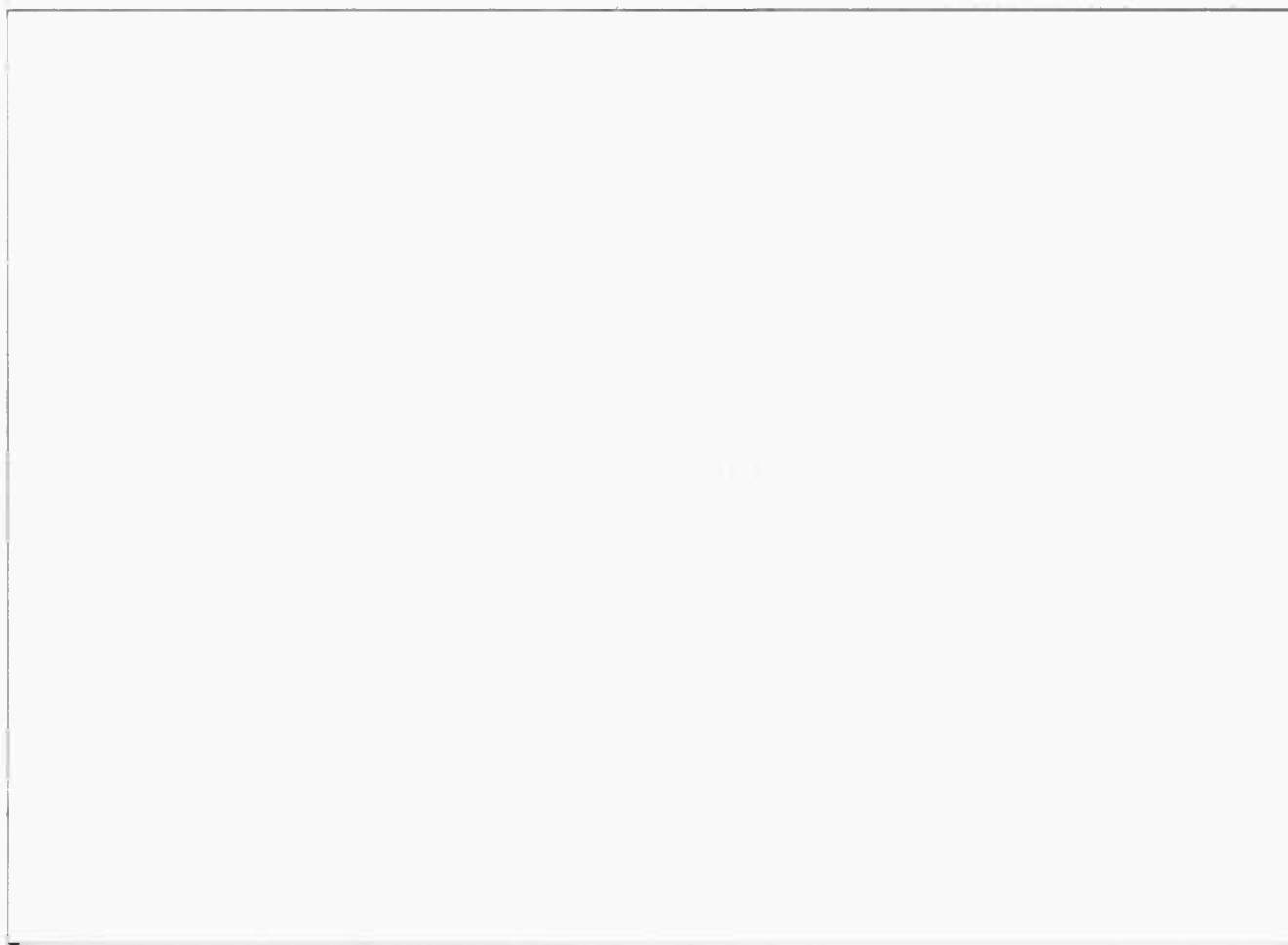




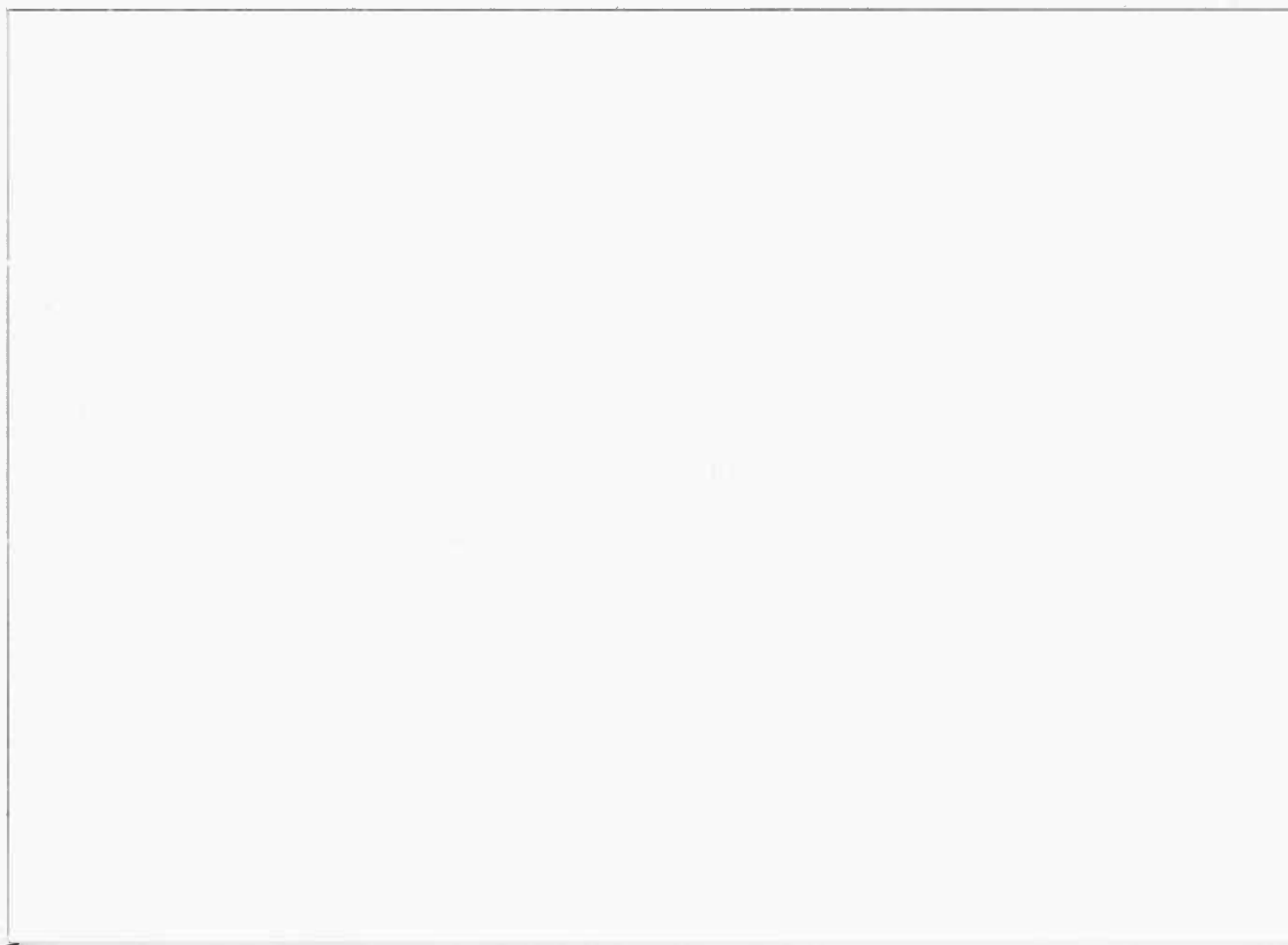




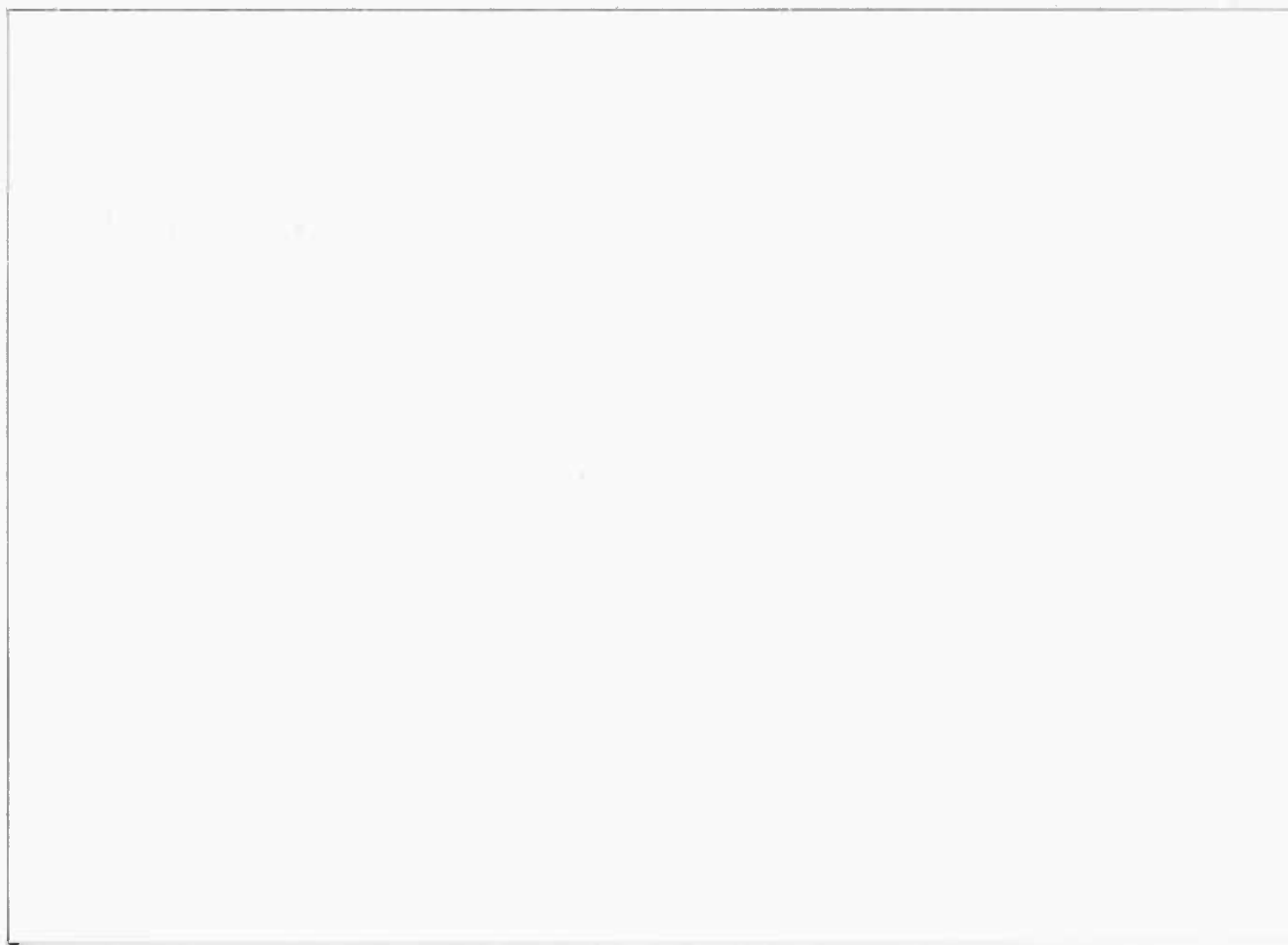




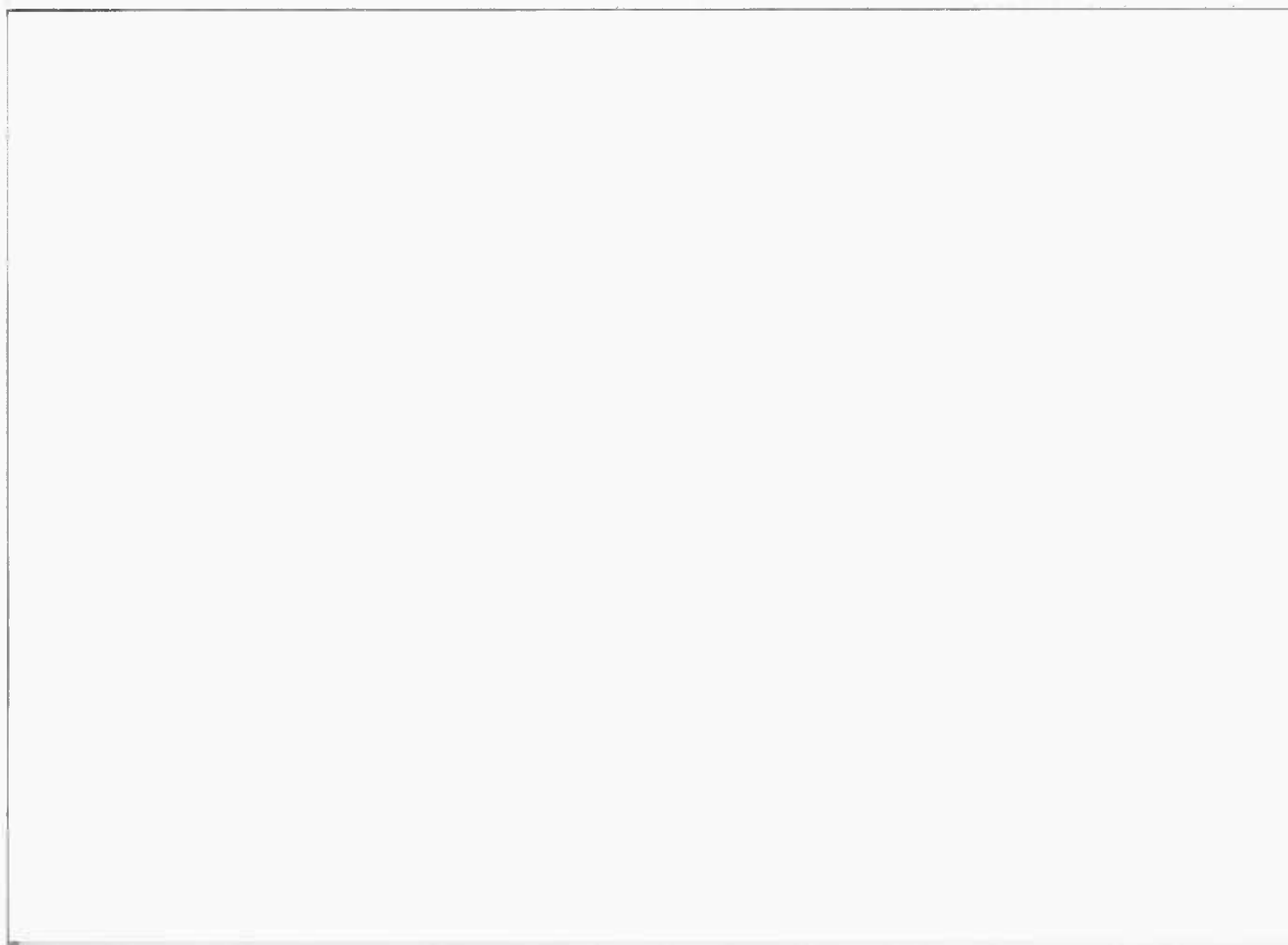




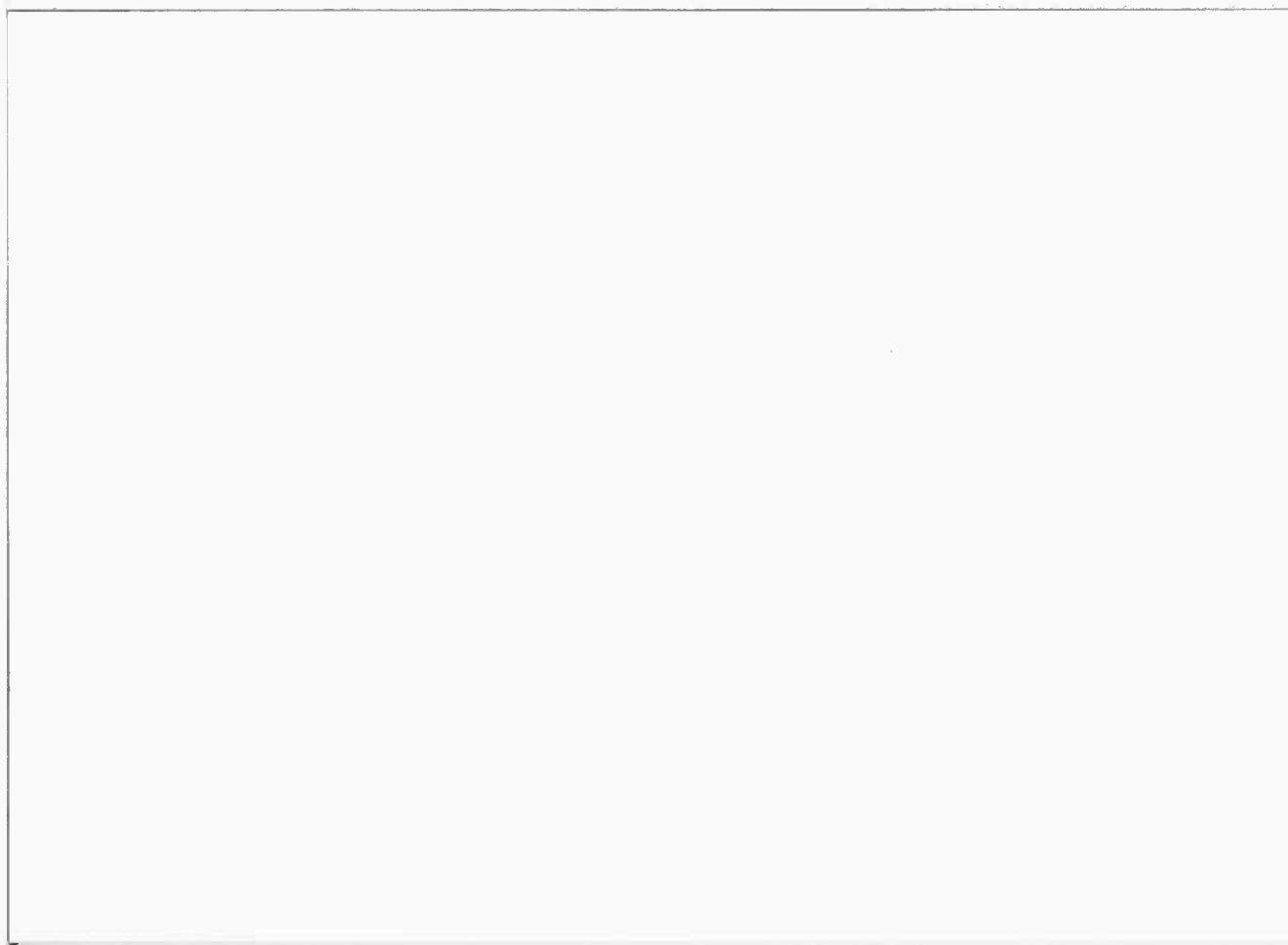




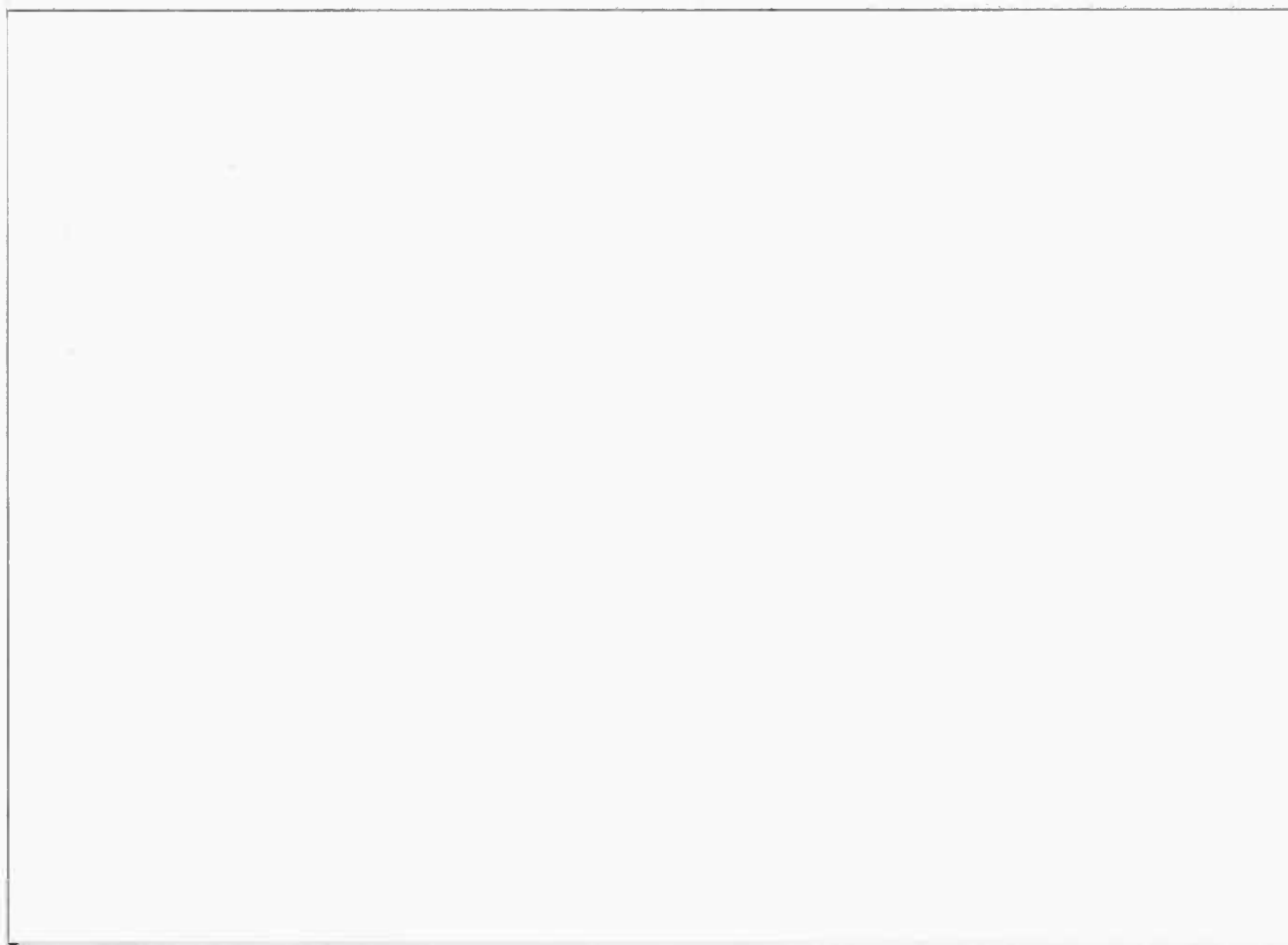




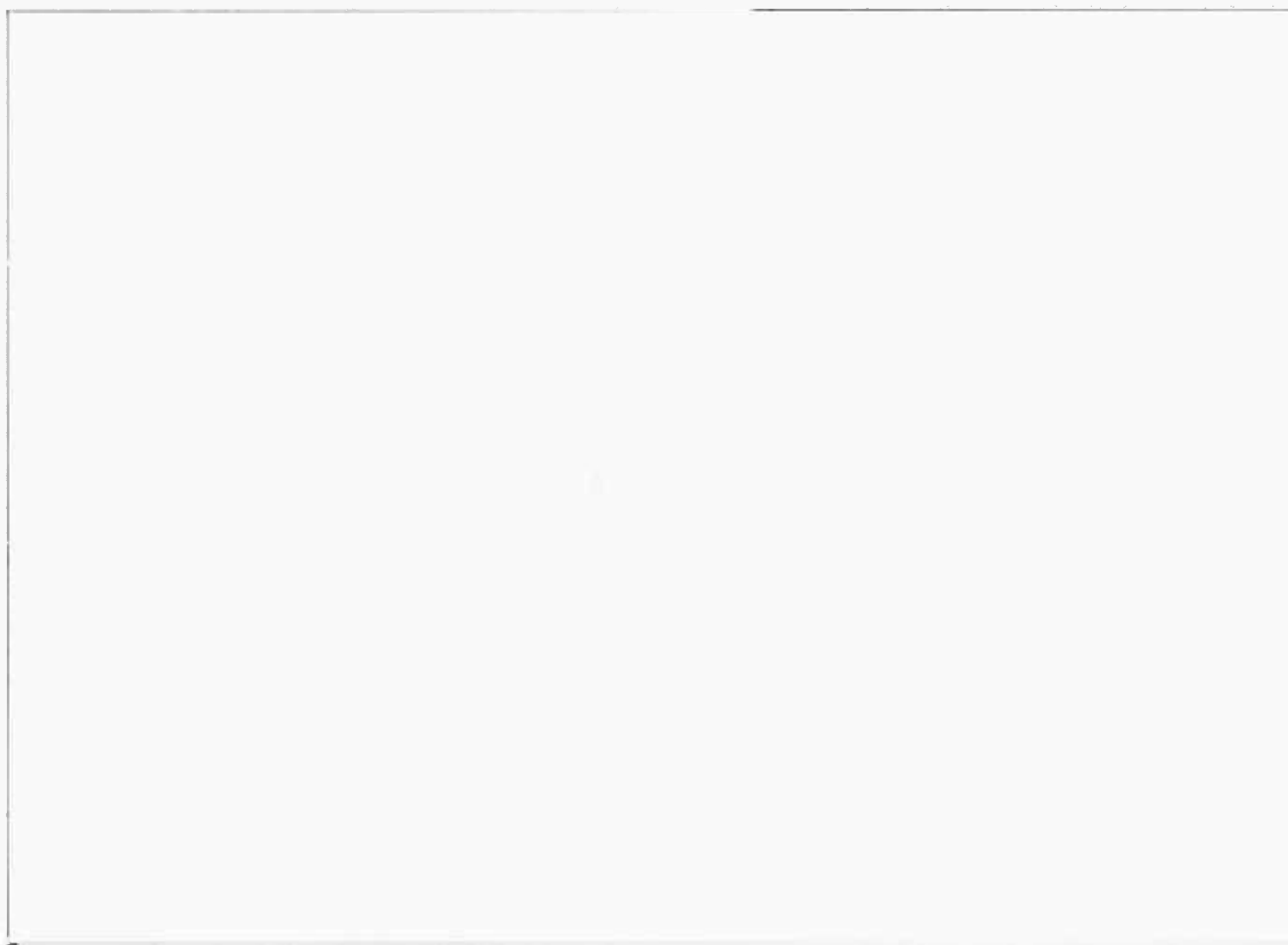




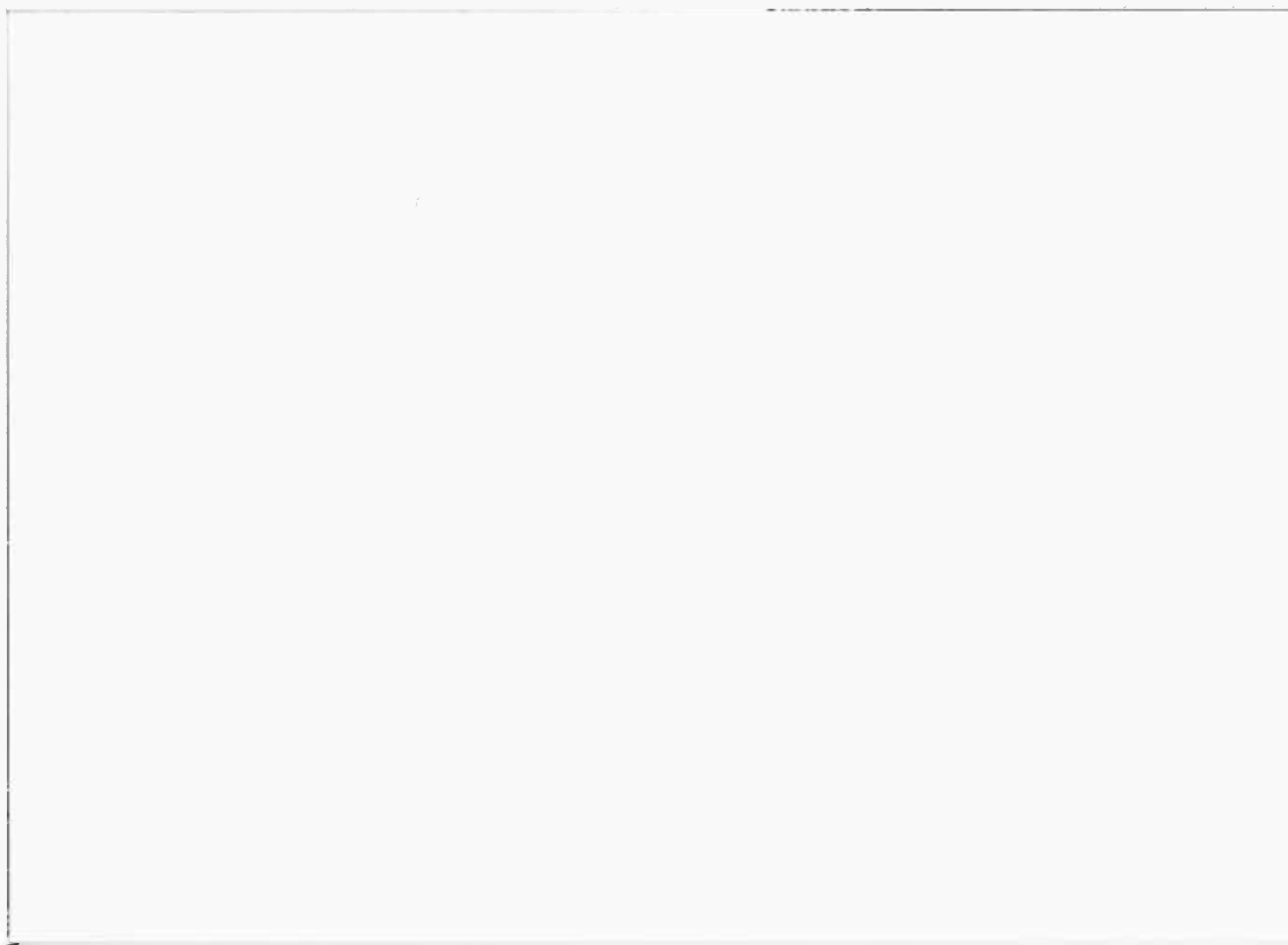


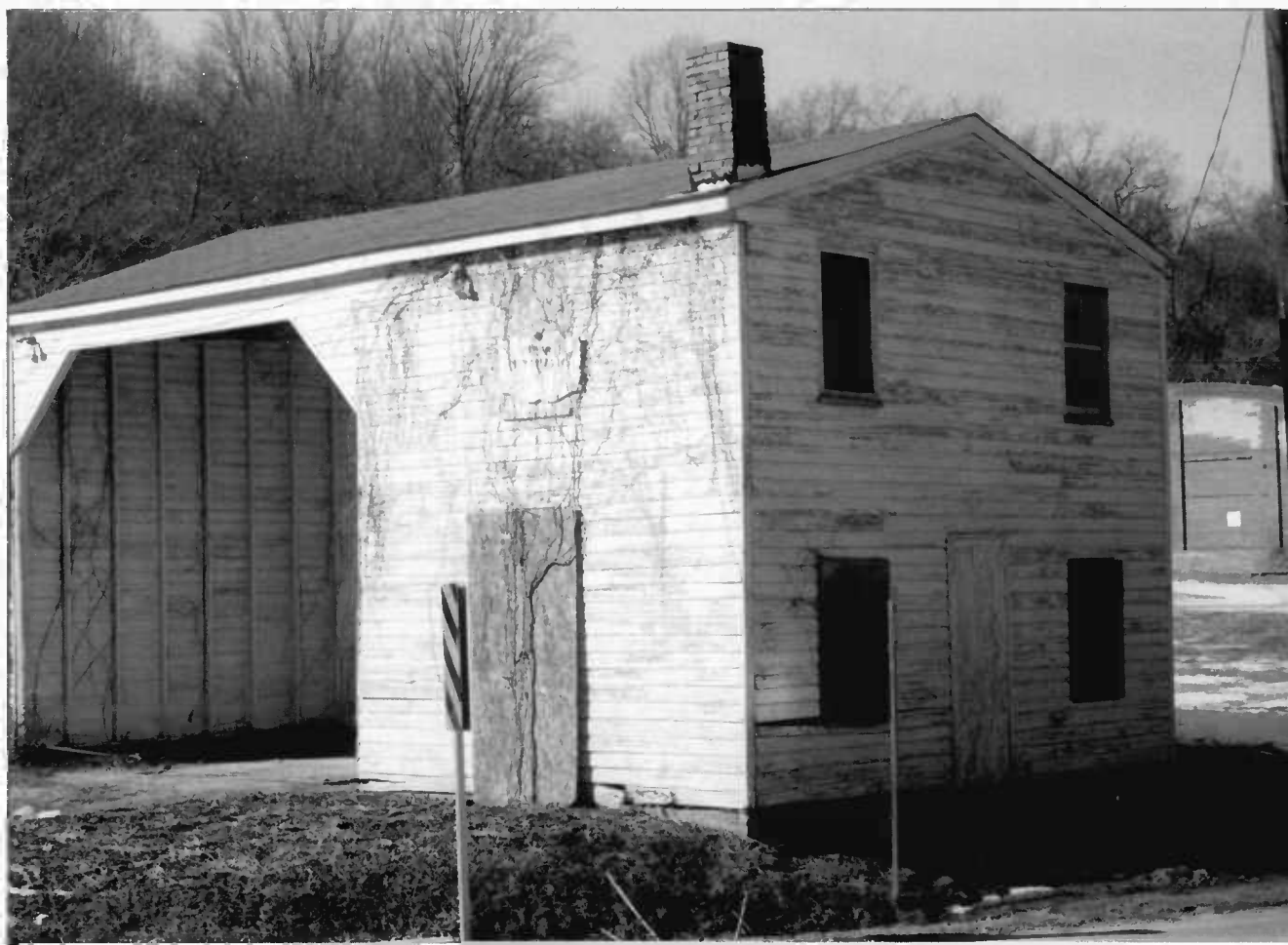


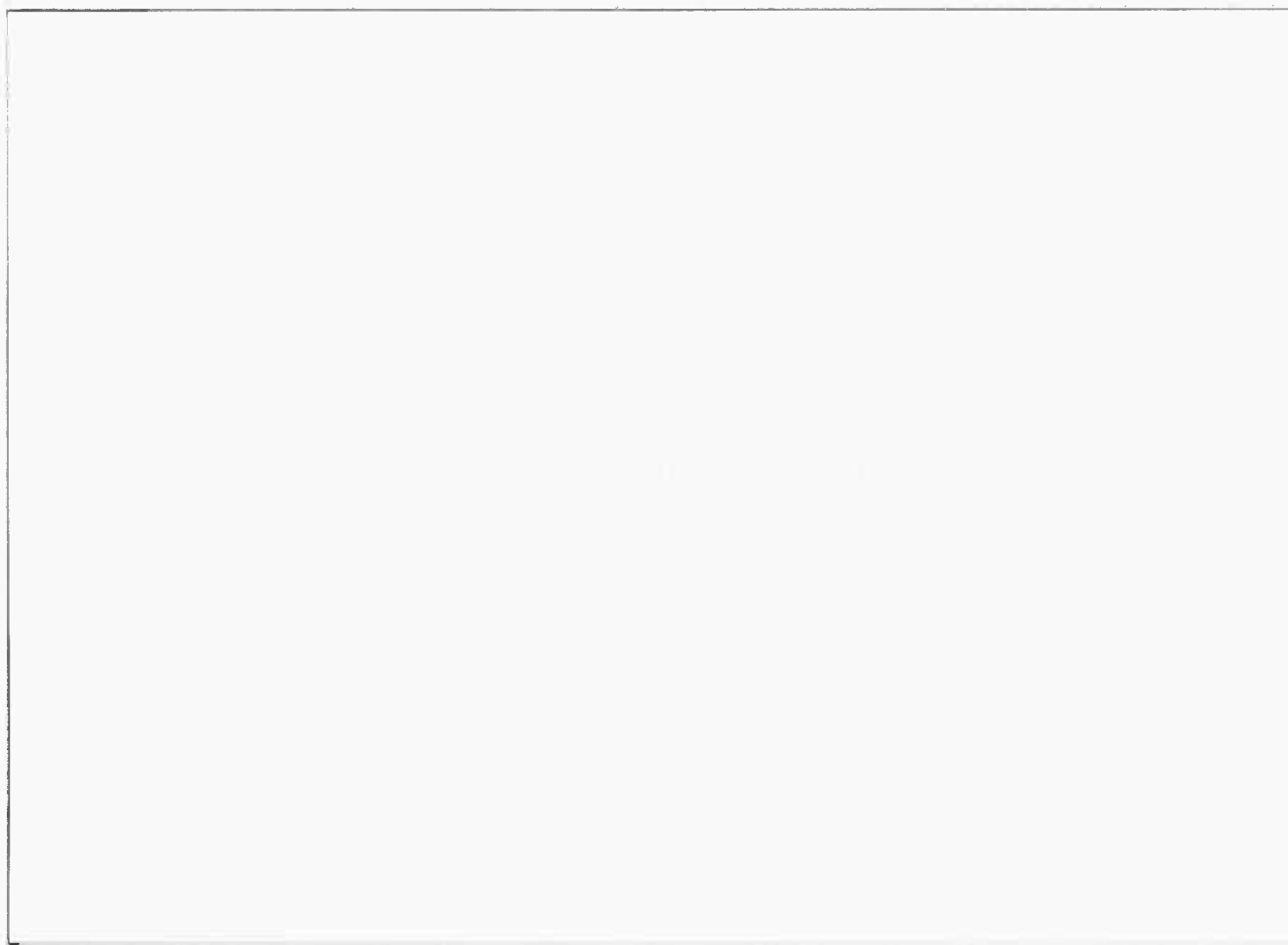














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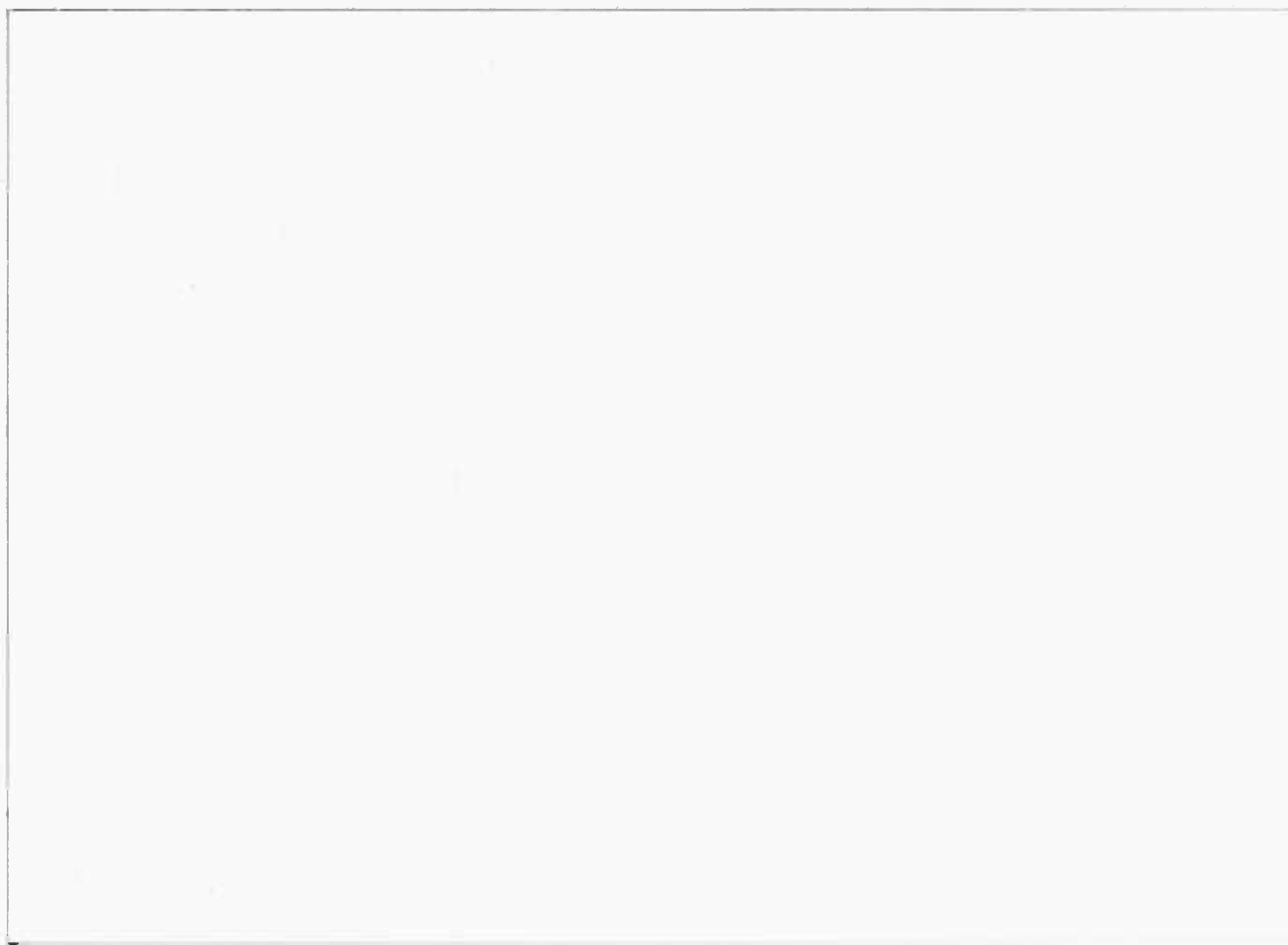
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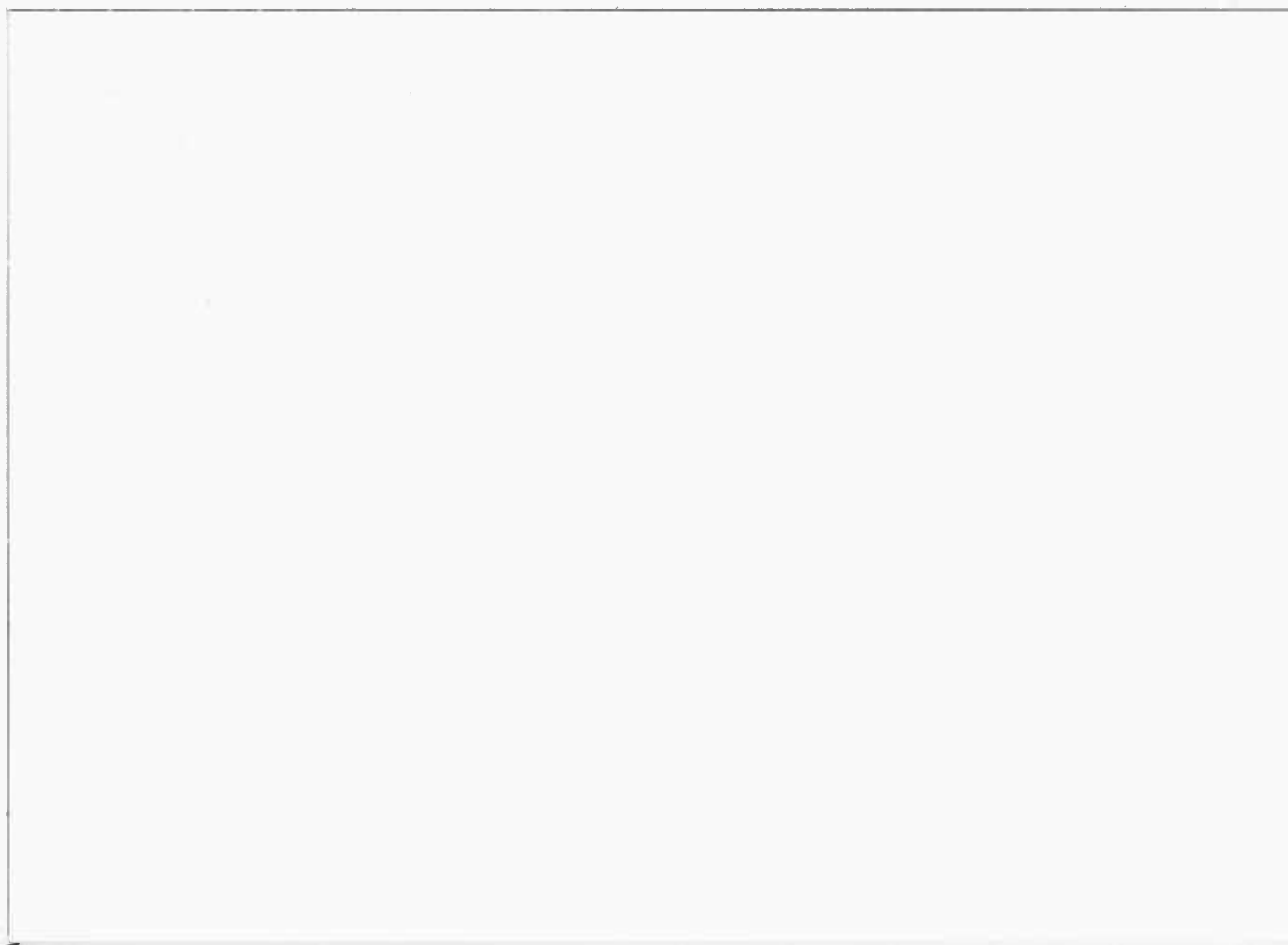




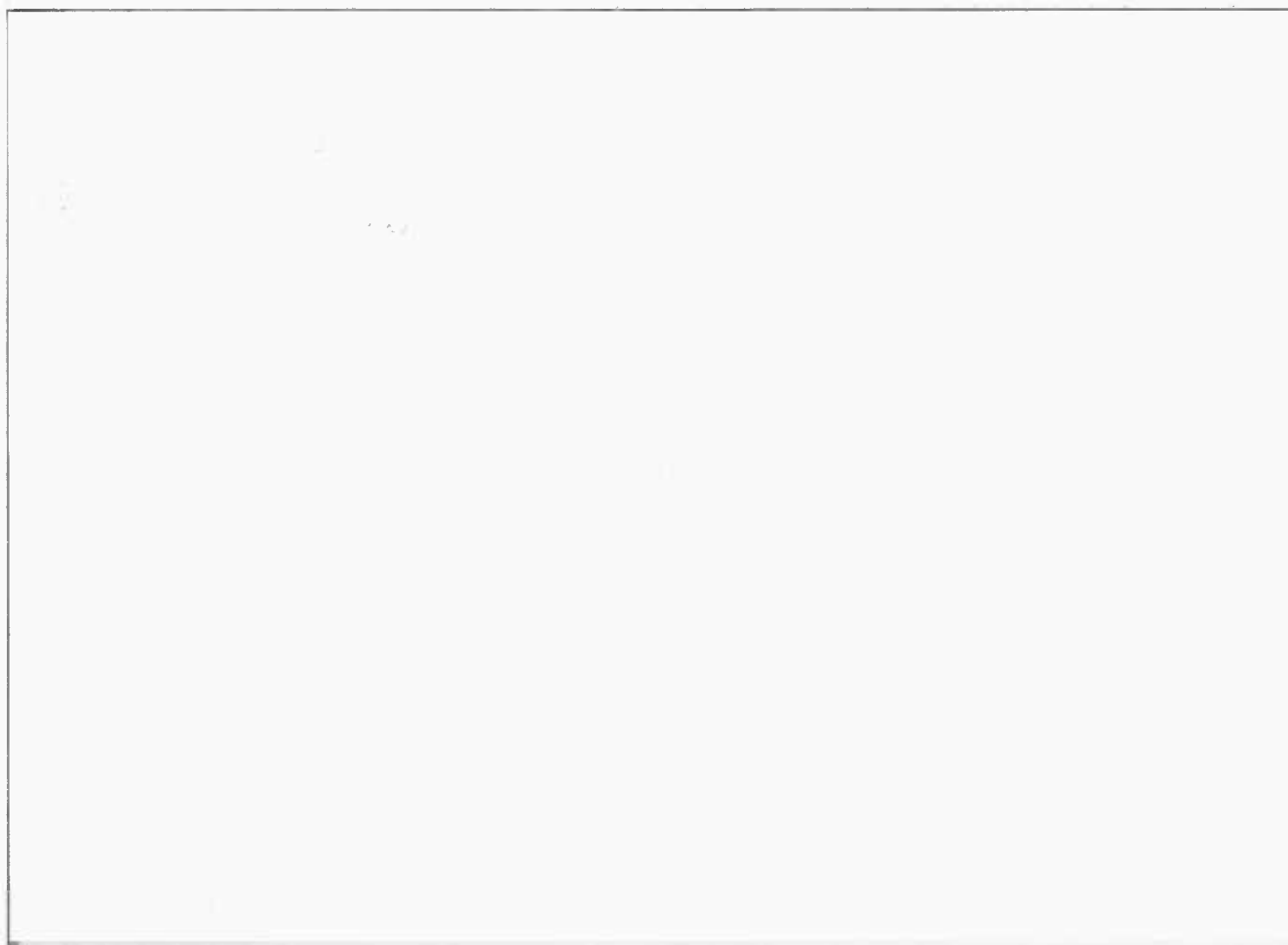















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